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ABSTRACT

The 1982 White House Conference on Children and Youth consisted of hundreds of conferences, meetings, activities, hearings, fairs, exhibits, workshops, training sessions, information booths, dinners, awards ceremonies, and local events celebrating a common commitment to American youth. Participating were 45 states, territories, and the District of Columbia. The purpose of this national report is to provide a representative sampling and discussion of state activities, goals, concerns, and recommendations. Specifically, chapter 1 recapitulates the conference history, discusses the background of the 1981 conferences, and describes conference grant awards. Chapter 2 discusses conference coordination and participant selection and composition. Chapter 3 reviews conference formats, activities, themes, and recurring discussion topics. Chapter 4 reiterates recommendations drawn from the state reports. Chapter 5 reconsiders some of the conference activities. Two appendices complete the document: the first contains executive summaries of state reports, while the second lists model programs recommended by the state conferences. (RH)

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National Report

1982 State Conferences on Children and Youth

PS 014445

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of
Human Development Services

Assistant Secretary
Washington DC 20201

July 1983

Dear Colleague:

I am pleased to transmit the enclosed national summary of the State Conferences on Children and youth. Instead of convening one national White House Conference on Children and Youth in 1981, each State, Territory and the District of Columbia was encouraged to plan and conduct an individual conference. The Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Human Development Services, welcomed the opportunity to provide funds and assist States in carrying out conference activities.

I believe the summary clearly demonstrates the success States achieved in involving individuals, businesses, industry and concerned organizations in these conferences. As a result, participants were able to address the needs and concerns of children and youth throughout their State and to determine what future actions are needed.

This summary will be of value to States, local communities, parents and all of us who believe that children and youth are one of our Nation's most valuable resources.

Sincerely,

Dorcas R. Hardy

Dorcas R. Hardy
Assistant Secretary
for Human Development Services

National Report

1982
State Conferences on Children and Youth

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Office of Human Development Services
Washington, D.C. 20201

DHHS Publication No. (OHDS) 83-10010

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PREFACE

Since 1909, a White House Conference on Children and Youth has been held every decade to celebrate the nation's commitment to improving the quality of life for the youngest generation. The 1981 proceedings represented a departure from the preceding seven national conferences by encouraging States to define the form of their own commitment to children and youth. Each of the forty-five participating States tailored the design of its conference activities to suit the State's particular needs and purposes.

Each participating State submitted a final report of its conference activities to the United States Department of Health and Human Services which allocated the funds for the conference activities. The purpose of this national report is to provide readers with a representative sampling and discussion of these State activities, goals, concerns, and recommendations. The Department intends that the report kindle reader interest and provide adequate guidance to pursue further information directly with each State. The report also incorporates in Appendix A the executive summaries of each State's conference proceedings.

The report contains five chapters. Chapter I recapitulates the White House Conference history, background to the 1981 conferences, and conference grant awards. Chapter II discusses conference coordination, and participant selection and composition. Chapter III reviews conference formats, activities, themes, and recurring discussion topics. Chapter IV reiterates recommendations drawn from the State Reports. In the spirit of the initial decision to encourage States to hold their own conferences, the Department supports the process by which each State developed and tailored its conferences and recommendations to its own needs. This national summary celebrates this diversity and prefers that the State reports and findings "take center stage" and not be commingled with national recommendations. Chapter V reconsiders some of the conference activities. Appendix A contains State executive summaries and Appendix B lists model programs recommended by the State conferences.

The Department applauds State governors, State coordinators, and participants who have demonstrated their enthusiasm and support for state conferences on children and youth. Many States made exceptional efforts to create conferences of relevance to a decade that will demand exceptional efforts of us all. As one State aptly noted about the value of its own conference, "The real significance of the Governor's conference goes beyond its findings. It has to do with the way in which citizens come together on behalf of children and youth."

CHAPTER I

HISTORY,
BACKGROUND OF 1981 CONFERENCE,
GRANT AWARDS

History

The White House Conferences on Children and Youth began in 1909 under President Theodore Roosevelt. The conference of two-hundred delegates protested against the abuse of institutionalized children and stressed the importance of home life for children, exclaiming that "...home life is the highest and finest product of civilization."1/ Each conference since has been a reaction to and a product of its historical period. In 1919 the conference called for protecting children from the effects of World War I and discussed minimum standards for health, education, work, child labor and child welfare standards. In 1930, depression, drought, low wages and unemployment were national problems that moved the conference's 1,200 delegates to conclude that low wages and unemployment were a "...burden that falls upon the backs of little children," that "...child labor must wait upon child welfare." The country was engaged in a war with countries of differing political ideologies when the 1940 conference met to discuss children in a democracy. The importance of adequate wages for the bread winner as fundamental to the welfare of the child and a concern with all children, not just those handicapped by circumstances, were common themes of the conference. The midcentury conference was attended by five hundred delegates prepared to discuss the sweeping changes in the United States society and explore a wide range of issues including parental influence, cultural bias in testing and curriculum, achieving healthy personalities, discrimination, need for coordination among all agencies serving children, effects of television, and planning with, instead of for, youth. The 1960 conference, the 50th anniversary, sought "...to promote opportunities for children and youth to realize their full potential for a creative life in freedom and dignity." The 1,600 recommendations dealt with the quality of parenthood and family life, school desegregation, equal housing access, peaceful protest, and youth participation in local, State and national affairs through voluntary organizations. In 1970, the format was divided into Conference on Children and a Conference on Youth. The delegates voted as their primary concern "...comprehensive family oriented child development programs, including health services, day care, and early childhood education." Youth expressed interest in what was once considered an adult domain of public affairs--the child advocate system, comprehensive programs, early child development, and cultural pluralism. The conference also emphasized "...that our social institutions and laws distinguish between child and adolescent."

1/ Final Report from Hawaii's Conference on Children and Youth. Most of the history is excerpted from the report.

Background for the 1981 State Conferences 1/

Plans for the 1981 conference on children and youth were developed as this country entered a new decade that promised profound changes affecting social policy for children and youth. The new Administration formulated and implemented significant alterations in the Federal government's provision and support of social services. Decision making and political activity is being returned to the State governments. Block grants for social services provide States with greater flexibility to tailor the use of federal funds to their individual needs, while permitting States to rely on Federal technical assistance in program areas. At the same time, a weakened inflationary and tax-burdened economy could not sustain the 1970's levels of spending for social services.

Against this backdrop, Richard S. Schweiker, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, decided that the conference would better serve the interest of children and youth if the activities reflected the redirecting of decision making to State governments and their citizens. Convening forums and conferences around the country would permit more voices to be heard than under a single conference format, would ensure that these voices were directed toward State decision makers responsible for the expenditure of Federal block grants and State social service funds, and would intensify the direct involvement of more concerned citizens in sharing the Department of Health and Human Services' national commitment to children and youth. Private sector involvement at the local level, volunteer support and fresh ideas shared among States were anticipated important products of the decentralized format.

Thoughtful attention to priorities, to developing new and applying tested models, to listening attentively to people's ideas and preferences were common threads defining many of the conference activities. Scarce resources to be carefully allocated is a necessity that confronts all States. The decentralized format of State conferences was well suited to addressing these needs.

1/ In this report, the term "States" will mean States, Territories, and the District of Columbia.

The final reports indicate that the break from tradition was well recieved by the States, and a success if measured in terms of numbers of participants involved, apparent State and participant support and enthusiasm for the activities, the variety of formats and activities sponsored, and intentions to hold follow-up State activities stimulated by the conferences. New York developed a "...unique approach to conducting a State conference. This approach which included local event affiliations, specialized institutes and community conferences, fostered a high level of enthusiasm and interest throughout the State and has involved a great many more New Yorkers, including young people, in the designing and conducting of a conference than one central event would have." Vermont may have spoken for many States in suggesting that its three part format:

> "...was devised in part in response to the traditional outcome of a White House Conference on Children and Youth, that of a meeting of different children's professionals, with an issues paper resulting that would eventually meet its fate in a file cabinet... Our assessment of an issue development conference, especially given the fact that there was no Washington, D.C. forum to present these at, would be 'sound and fury signifying nothing'. As it were, there were over 13,000 Vermonters who participated in the program. In addition, a broad section of persons all over the State worked as volunteers in conference planning, and implementation."

Participants and State governments will ultimately offer the most valid judgment whether the activities, findings, recommendations, exhibits, regional meetings, teleconferences, workshops, town-fairs, surveys, presentations, and resolutions will be of lasting value to the well-being of "the most wholesome part of the human race" as Herbert Hoover described our children and youth.

Many States either did not intend to produce recommendations or had not submitted them in their final report to the Department. Consequently, the national summary will offer fewer ideas and recommendations than are available by contacting the States directly. Many States enthusiastically endorsed the value of conferences designed to engage participants in a variety of activities rather than produce formal recommendations. The Department encourages direct contact with these States to share information concerning these activities/information not included in the State or Federal summary reports.

To provide the Governors and the Mayor with flexibility to implement the White House Conference on Children and Youth through conferences convened by the States, Secretary Schweiker imposed very few requirements in prescribing how the conferences would operate. States had full responsibility for planning and implementing their conferences and were free to develop their own themes, agendas, formats and activities provided that each participating State:

- Took responsibility for planning and implementing their conferences and for involving local governments, private organizations, volunteer agencies, families and other interested individuals and groups.
- Provided forums for developing plans to meet the specific needs of each State's children and youth.
- Applied to the Department of Health and Human Services for funding by June 5, 1981.
- Held conferences in October, November and December, 1981.
- Submitted a report to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services by January 29, 1982. The report was to include conference deliberations, findings, and recommendations, and an Executive Summary of no more than five (5) pages.
- Submitted to the Department by April 29, 1982 a Financial Status Report and Property Inventory and Disposition Statement.

Because the requirements permitted participating States and territories broad discretion in designing conference goals and formats, many States responded by adopting a variety of innovative approaches that will be discussed later in this summary. A description of these approaches, themes, goals and formats was provided to the Department on the award application submitted during the summer and early fall of 1981.

The Department allocated $2.3 million for the State Conferences on Children and Youth. The amount allotted to each participating State was based on a two-step allocation process. First, each State, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico received a base allocation of $25,000. Second, funds remaining

from the $2.3 million Congressional allocation were distributed according to the number of children and youth in each State as a proportion of the total number of the Nation's children and youth. Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands received a total allocation of $10,000 each. The budget allocations ranged from $120,619 and $98,034 for California and New York respectively, to $27,122 and $27,199 for Wyoming and Vermont respectively. A few States supplemented the Federal allocations with State funds. For example, New York added $50,000 to their $98,034 grant to broaden their imaginative and extensive conference activities.

Of the fifty-six States, territories and District of Columbia eligible for conference awards, forty-five requested and were granted their proportionate share. The funds earmarked for States that subsequently did not request awards were returned to the United States Treasury.

CHAPTER II

CONFERENCE COORDINATION

PARTICIPANT SELECTION AND COMPOSITION

Conference Coordination and Implementation

The Governors selected a variety of methods to coordinate and implement their conference activities. Most Governors designated the State agency or agencies with jurisdiction over children and youth programs to coordinate activities. Examples of State agency coordinators include: California's Health and Welfare Agency; Kentucky's Department of Human Resources; Maine's Departments of Human Services, Education and Cultural Services, Mental Health and Retardation; Maryland's Office of Children and Youth; Michigan's Office of Children and Youth Services; Ohio's Department of Public Welfare; Rhode Island's Department of Children, Youth, and Families; South Carolina's Office of Childrens Affairs; Wisconsin's Department of Health and Social Services; Guam's Department of Youth Affairs. Most coordinating agencies established committees or task forces to discuss conference themes, arrange agendas, decide on issues to be presented, and implement the conference activities. Some State agencies limited participation on the committee to representatives of the agencies with jurisdiction; others involved outside organizations as service providers, advocacy groups, and individual citizens to participate in the planning and implementation activities. Utah's steering committee was comprised of 24 persons from various sectors of society. California's conference committee included representatives of 17 public agencies. Connecticut's executive committee represented "all sectors". Idaho's Office of Juvenile Justice and Youth established a decentralized planning structure with a planning committee in each of three regions where the conferences were held. With very few exceptions, children and youth were not involved in the pre-conference planning. However, the Ohio planning committee included youth, 24 State agencies, voluntary groups, and parents.

Some Governors sought the assistance of organizations other than the State agencies to coordinate their conferences. The District of Columbia, Nevada, Minnesota, and South Carolina contracted the conference planning and implementation to a national association, a service provider, and universities respectively. Governor's Commissions, Committees or Advisory Councils on children and youth coordinated activities for Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey, West Virginia, Maryland, New Mexico, Mississippi, Wyoming and New York. Mississippi's 16 member planning committee was comprised of 6 business representatives, 5 community representatives, and 5 professionals from the children and youth field. New Mexico's Advisory Committee included private citizens as well as representatives from youth service agencies. Washington's 14 member steering committee included representatives from labor, youth, business and the educational community in an effort to involve youth employment constituencies.

Participant Selection Procedure

Most State coordinating committees were given responsibility for participant selection. The method of selecting participants was generally tailored to the conference format. For example, States often held multiple conferences or meetings to encourage broader participation. Their task, therefore, was not so much a matter of screening participants as encouraging people to become involved in the conferences and meetings. Colorado, New York, Idaho, Kansas, Michigan, Rhode Island, New Mexico, Nevada, North Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia, and Puerto Rico held multiple meetings. Similarly, other States designed their conferences around decentralized activities such as "local fairs", exhibits, training, and other activities to disseminate information and promote broad citizen involvement. Vermont, California, Maryland, Montana, Nevada, New York, Tennessee and others partially followed this approach and opened the activities to all interested.

Most States, however, preferred a conference format that promoted discussion of issues and preparation of recommendations. These States adopted explicit procedures for selecting participants. Illinois State delegates were selected one-third by the Governor, one-third by the Statewide steering committee and one-third were elected at each of four regional conferences preceding the State conference. Illinois' regional delegate selection process accepted one-half of the participants on a first come, first served basis according to the return postmark on the application. The remaining one-half of the delegates were selected by their Regional Planning Committees. Indiana's steering committee of 43 people also designed a complex procedure. They requested the mayors of 116 Indiana cities to appoint a representative of business and industry, the presidents of Indiana's 92 boards of county commissions to appoint a provider of children and youth services or an interested citizen or parent, and the 150 State legislators to appoint a youth from their constituency. New Jersey's participants were allocated by county according to an AFDC-child-per-county formula with a minimum of five from each county. In South Carolina, the State Agencies concerned with children and youth appointed the delegates to avoid what the conference coordinators described as "...the traditional conference where public school teachers communicate with other teachers, social workers communicate with social workers, etc." Private agencies, citizens and members of the legislature were also invited to attend while children and youth were invited to participate in an evening session. In the State of Washington the 14 member steering committee selected the participants. The exception to these examples is Utah whose steering committee found it unnecessary to observe strict rules for delegate selection since "...issues were not presented and, therefore, there wasn't any voting on issues."

Number and Composition of Participants

The greatest benefit to decentralizing the national White House Conference may have been the interest the individual conferences evoked among the citizens of each State. The attendance figures for the varied conference events and activities were high. Many State final reports noted with some surprise and enthusiasm the number of persons that became involved in the conferences, fairs, local events, regional meetings and in the planning for these events. As Maryland noted "... the decision to decentralize was correct....It is not likely that the level of involvement would have been realized had the conference been a single centralized event..."

West Virginia commented:

> "...in retrospect, the purpose of having a minimum of 24 public meetings was valid. We heard from citizens representing a broad range of socio-economic backgrounds, ages, geographic locations...(which) might not have been possible had there been one central meeting."

Many States designed their formats specifically to involve broad and diverse elements of the State population. As expected, States that held more than one conference, meeting or activity attracted more participants than the States that held one central conference. A sampling of attendance figures for States holding multi-site activities include: Idaho attracted 800 people to 3 conferences; Illinois had 800 delegates, 98 speakers, 300 observers and 200 volunteers for 4 regional conferences and 1 State conference; Kansas had 900 participants at 2 conferences; Maryland attracted approximately 5,800 people to its various activities; Michigan had 5 hearings and a State conference attended by 600 people; Nevada attracted 2,000-3,000 people to its fair and 600 to its State conference; New Mexico drew 1,600 to its 6 regional and 1 state conferences; New York drew thousands to its local affiliation events and community conferences; and Vermont estimates an attendance of 13,000 participants in its 135 (+) activities.

Many States that held one conference also attracted large numbers of participants. Connecticut drew 460 from all constituent sectors; the District of Columbia registered 700 participants; Georgia had 1,032 participants; Indiana attracted 388 delegates; Kentucky attracted 500 persons; Louisiana, 425; Maine, 400; Missouri, 400; New Hampshire and New Jersey, 400 each; North Carolina, 410; Ohio, 335 with 92 presentors; South Carolina, 600 with 32 workshops; Washington, 500; Guam, 200; and, Puerto Rico, 250.

The individual State meetings resulted in a broader, more diverse participation representative of local differences than would have been possible at a single national conference. Many States made a conscious effort to "caste a wide net" and ensure a broad and extensive participation by its citizenry. Rhode Island held open hearings. Tennessee's briefings and 23 county meetings included civic organizations, volunteer organizations, professional groups, local governments, State agencies, businesses, industry, media, and individuals representing children and youth services. Washington's Governor Spellman "...insisted that participants represent the broadest spectrum of backgrounds, disciplines, and points of view." Michigan held a series of open public hearings around the State "...designed to allow broad citizen participation."

Many States emphasized youth participation in the conference activities. In California, twenty percent of the delegates were youth with 700 participating in the conference's fair. Indiana's youth comprised 95 of its 388 delegates. Louisiana youth represented 185 of the 425 participants. Maine registrants included 25% children. One-quarter of Montana's participants were less than 25 years old. Seventy-percent of New Mexico's State conference participants were less than 18 years old. Ohio's goal was a forty-percent participation by youth. Washington's conference was attended by 100 youth, although "...representation for and by high-school or pre-school dropouts and blacks were poor to nonexistent." Two hundred youth attended Guam's conference and over 200 children and youth attended Puerto Puerto Rico's conference. One hundred five of the 182 participants at Utah's conference were youth.

Some States developed complex selection procedures. Illinois, Indiana, New Jersey and South Carolina established procedures tailored to assure specific participant composition. Conversely, a few conferences were dominated by State agency presenters and participants in an effort to foster more effective communication between the public sectors responsible for children and youth activities. Many factors caused some states to limit conference participants to those most responsible for improving the State performance. These factors include the need for better planning, needs assesment and priority setting, increased coordination to reduce duplication and overlap in agencies' responsibilities.

If there is a common thread to the multiple State approaches to participant selection and composition, it is that States welcomed the opportunity to tailor these policies to their conference purposes. The variety of participants involved, whether entire families in Vermont or only youth in Guam, indicates the diversity of State objectives and the desire to utilize the flexibility provided by the decentralized format.

CHAPTER III

CONFERENCE FORMATS, THEMES
and
RECURRING DISCUSSION TOPICS

Conference Formats

States designed an imaginative variety of formats for conducting their conferences. The Federal funding guidelines for the conferences were designed to permit each State adequate discretion to use traditional designs or explore new approaches to benefit its children and youth. The variety of conference formats adopted reflected the multiple needs and objectives of participating States. The formats included workshop conferences with a single central conference, or central and regional conferences; central and regional hearings; multi-site training conferences; multiple regional or local meetings; statewide surveys; a teleconference; children, youth and family activities, fairs and events in the local communities; and exhibits, information booths, presentations, and films as part of the above activities.

Most States adhered to workshop/conference format that permitted discussion of preselected issues. States that adopted a single conference format include California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, South Carolina, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. States that held multi-site workshop conferences include Colorado, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Nevada, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Guam and Puerto Rico. The number of workshops per conference, and therefore the scope of the discussions, varied significantly, ranging from four or five workshops in Kansas and Iowa to 32 in South Carolina, 40 in Washington and Georgia, and 62 in Tennessee. Most of the States following this format held from five to ten workshops.

Variations on the workshop/conference format were utilized to disseminate information or achieve other peripheral objectives. Montana, Maryland, Nevada and others set up exhibits. Tennessee showcased 25 successful children and youth programs. New Hampshire scheduled film and slide presentations. Missouri's evening session described programs that had become success stories. North Carolina's Governor invited "50 outstanding persons from business/industry and Chambers of Commerce" to attend a Luncheon/Business Roundtable to discuss the relationship of business and industry to children and youth needs and programs.

The hearings format was used by 2 States. Testimony was given by prearranged presentors and by members of the public in open discussion periods. Michigan conducted 5 hearings in addition to their central conference. Rhode Island held open hearings, with 40 of the 700 participants invited providing oral testimony.

In addition to the hearings and conference/workshop formats, several States designed conference activities tailored to the special needs and interests of their constituencies or to the goals established by their conference coordinators. New York State's design included three levels of activity: Local Event Affiliation (local activities, workshops, presentations, fairs, etc.), Community Conferences on Youth Leadership Development, and specialized institutes to explore specific issues. New York reported that the design "...involved a great many more New Yorkers including young people, in the designing and conducting of a conference than one central event could have." Vermont used most of its conference funds to have a celebration of children and youth at sixty-six sites across the State. Skeptical that a single State or national conference alone could produce significant change or improvement, Vermont sponsored family activities, games, workshops, contests, and storytelling in many town fairs "...to promote healthy and productive interaction for family members." Maryland's conference included in-school activities, surveys, essays and articles for the media, displays at shopping malls and conference sites, fifty smaller events (family skate night, open houses, church services, dinners, recognition of outstanding young people), several large scale family and community events (fairs, talent shows, breakfast receptions), thirteen public forums, and a central conference with sixty-three workshops. Tennessee's desire to foster increased interest in volunteerism and assess the status of children's services at the local level resulted in a conference format that included meetings in 23 counties. West Virginia held 24 meetings to assess local needs and to provide citizens with an opportunity to discuss the problems and concerns related to children and youth. These decentralized activities presented opportunities for widespread public involvement unavailable in the single conference format. Pennsylvania conducted a one-hour teleconference on the Statewide Public Television Network to reach the largest possible audience and stimulate interest in children and youth programs. The participants included a 17 year old student, a college educator, and two representatives from the State education and welfare agencies. Utah's conference "...was designed to be a process-training conference rather than one that dealt just with content issues." The activities emphasized the positive contributions of youth, with youth comprising the majority of participants. North Carolina's central conference was dedicated in part to a training exercise designed to equip participants to return to their respective counties and convene follow-up conferences on the local needs of their children and youth.

Many States conducted surveys as their sole conference activity or as a support to other activities. Texas adopted the former approach. It conducted an extensive study of attitudes toward the problems of children and youth and covered such areas as a statistical portrait of the Texas family, the problems of

children and youth as defined by the States residents, an evaluation of the State's performance and a discussion of the proper role of State government. Hawaii, Idaho, Michigan, Montana, and Rhode Island conducted surveys or public opinion polls which, while varying in purpose and statistical reliability, permitted States to assess constituent priorities or refine topics for discussion at their conferences.

Of value to many readers will be the conference formats that provided for a discussion of successful model programs. Model programs were cited as possible solutions to specific problems considered at the conferences. For example, the California conference presented model programs for each of its workshop areas in job training, job development, youth entrepreneurship, etc. Georgia, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, and South Carolina and Tennessee all attempted to go beyond general recommendations by proposing specific and promising model programs for further review or implementation. A separate listing of model programs considered at the State conferences is contained in Appendix B.

Conference Purposes

The variety of conference purposes and activities indicated the diversity of State concerns, interests, and creative ideas. States utilized the conference funds to identify and rank local needs, define pressing public concerns by conducting public opinion polls, determine the appropriate role of the State government in the provision of children and youth services, reevaluate State spending priorities, improve coordination and communication among State agencies and between State agencies and the private sector, expand citizen interest and involvement in children and youth activities, intensify business commitment to addressing children and youth problems, provide discussion of preselected topics and prepare recommendations for implementation, disseminate information to public regarding State programs, and expose participants to "model" or successful programs as potential solutions to State problems.

New Federalism, the current economic environment and the impact of reduced federal spending for many social service programs were very much on the minds of the organizers and participants of these conferences. The desire of State Governors and their citizens to find solutions to increasingly intractable and pressing problems created a sense of urgency to conference deliberations and activities. The general concern was for

immediate and workable solutions. Listening to citizen concerns, discussing needs and spending priorities, developing specific program recommendations, and proposing model programs or other solutions seemed the natural focus of deliberations. Solutions, not resolutions, may aptly suggest the tone. In spite of the widespread recognition that States were entering an era of restricted budgets to be allocated among many legitimate competing needs, few conferences were sympathetic to a reduction in funds or services for children and youth. Connecticut's survey reflects the views of most conferences in noting that "In summary, the survey revealed that while people of the State of Connecticut have accepted the realities of federal budget cutbacks, they are not ready to trim programs which help children and youth."

The new Federal policies and implementation of block grants caused many State governments to use the conferences to develop action agenda for the decade, to reevaluate needs and spending priorities, and develop specific program recommendations. Conferences were motivated to look for more effective ways to coordinate financial and human resources, and to seek out State programs that not only work well, but achieve their goals within present budget limita- tions. The current economy and Federal policies presented the States with a challenge that permeated the conferences' activities, the challenge of allocating shrinking resources and finding budgetary and program solutions in a period of necessary and pressing change. These objectives were most frequently implemented through a format of workshops covering single issues. The conferences were organized under such titles as: New Jersey's "Call for Action to Create a Caring Community for Our Children and Ourselves"; Connecticut's "Children: A Shared Responsibility"; the District of Columbia's "A New World for Children and Youth: Challenge of the Eighties"; Florida's "Children Growing Up in a Changing Society"; Hawaii's "Hawaii in the Eighties: Decade for Youth and Families"; Illinois' "Children's Priorities in the 80's"; Idaho's "Governor's Conference on Children and Youth"; Kentucky's "Today's Child-Tomorrow's Future"; Montana's "Exploring the Headwaters of Children and Youth in the 80's"; Louisiana's "A Time to Act"; Massachusett's "Action Agenda for the 80's"; and New Hampshire's "The Changing Picture in Children and Youth Services: A Look Beyond the Block Grants".

Other States also pursued similar objectives but limited deliberations and recommendations to a single subject of compelling interest. For example, the State of Washington, concerned with its depressed economy, chose the theme of youth employment. Vermont, aroused by a highly publicized and tragic incident involving two young victims, dedicated its central conference activities to the theme of child sexual abuse. Tennessee emphasized the need for increasing involvement of the private

sector and titled its conference "The Tennessee Volunteers for Children Project". Wisconsin's conference focused on child welfare with the central theme "In Search of ... Permanency for Children." Iowa chose a "Conference on Crime Prevention". Minnesota titled its conference "Stress and Work - Addressing the Needs of Children, Youth and Parents: Models for Self Reliance". Nevada's conference "Expanded Horizons in Child Welfare: Taking Care of More with Less" was concerned with child abuse and neglect. Kansas' "Keeping Our Youth in Kansas" and California's Conference on Youth Employment" shared a common theme.

A second common purpose of many conferences was the promotion of private sector involvement in supporting existing and developing new programs appropriate to a decade promising increasing governmental, demographic, and family changes. This general theme took many forms--generating interest in volunteerism, defining roles of business and citizens, proposing and exhibiting model programs, exploring areas of common concern with the private and non-profit sector--all of which were intended to stimulate private sector involvement and encourage public/private partnership in children and youth affairs. Tennessee's conference activities were devoted to developing a network of volunteers and defining new areas for volunteer contributions in children and youth programs. North Carolina focused on private programs already meeting the needs of certain groups of children and published a booklet titled "Private Sector Possibilities for Helping Children in North Carolina". Georgia rejected a format of position papers, resolutions, and delegates and instead designed its conference to emphasize the partnership between the public and private sectors. Ohio's general theme was to showcase volunteer programs for children and youth and to emphasize the role of youth as volunteers. California, Mississippi, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont and West Virginia also incorporated the theme of public/private sector partnership into their conference activities.

A third recurring conference purpose was the assessment of the State and local programs serving children and youth. These States focused the conference deliberations on the adequacy of current programs, existing gaps in or duplication of services, means of improving coordination among service providers and administering agencies, and the proper roles of local, State and federal governments. For example, New Jersey concluded that their conference "...was highly productive in building public understanding of the need to reform the service-delivery system" and to improve services. Kentucky's conference was intended "...to develop strategies to maintain and strengthen existing services to children and youth in the wake of recent federal and state budget reductions." Many states discussed the quality of current programs and proposed improvements while also pursuing other conference objectives. Conferences dedicated to producing an action agenda for the 80's were inevitably involved in exploring the effectiveness of existing services.

A fourth common conference purpose incorporated a significant outreach effort to involve State citizenry in the well-being of children and youth. Conferences were designed to achieve a variety of goals - create greater community responsibility; encourage increased youth involvement; extend community awareness and knowledge of problems and concerns; foster dialogue among children, youth, families, and organizations; disseminate information; promote the development of children and youth advocacy networks; involve youth in community life; provide activities to promote healthy and productive interaction of family members. To these ends, States held a variety of State and local activities, meetings, fairs, dinners, workhops, exhibits, and school activities. Maine, Maryland, Missouri, New York, and Vermont adopted their conference formats to achieve these purposes. California, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, South Dakota, Washington and Guam also embraced these goals to a lesser degree.

Ascertaining citizen preferences related to children and youth affairs was a fifth conference purpose shared by several States. A few States obtained a limited sampling of preferences by gathering information from conference participants. Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Rhode Island, Texas and West Virginia adopted more extensive polling procedures and conducted public opinion surveys of varying scientific validity. Texas' conference activity was the conduct of statewide survey and the preparation of a final report titled "A Study of Attitudes in the State of Texas - The Problems of Children and Youth".

Discussion Topics

Conference themes were chosen to reflect the general purpose of each conference. Within that substantive framework, specific topics were selected for discussion usually within workshops. Most Governors delegated the choice of topics to the agency, organization, commission or entity responsible for coordinating the State's activities. In most States, the coordinators decided how the conference topics would be selected. The approaches were diverse. Some States relied on the coordinating committee to select the topics; others used public opinion surveys or existing State reports. Whatever the method of selection, most States chose similar broad areas for discussion at their conferences.

An analysis of recurring topics of those States that held workshop conferences risks oversimplifying and miscategorizing the discussions. Several States did not intend that their

conferences produce recommendations for their Governors. Those that did chose their own topics and used their own terminology. For example, juvenile justice, juvenile delinquency, legal systems, secure care, residential care, vandalism and crime, parenting, family support services, foster care, recreation and leisure time, substance abuse, and job opportunities are topics that have overlapping concerns. Discussion of one may have touched upon all others, although the agenda may have highlighted only one subject. Determining which topics were most frequently discussed therefore requires making subjective judgements subject to interpretive error. Given these limitations, the following summary will provide the reader with a general idea of the frequency with which the discussion topics recurred. The topic titles are the Department's. They approximate terms used in most, but not all, State reports. (A sampling of State recommendations is contained in Chapter IV).

The areas of most common interest included youth employment, child care, health and mental health, child welfare services, education, child abuse and neglect, juvenile justice and juvenile delinquency, volunteers, involvement of the private sector, alcoholism and substance abuse, and adolescent sexuality. These topics were frequently the subjects of individual workshops. Within these broad areas, subjects of more limited scope were frequently touched upon in the workshops. They include: Youth Employment - Youth Entrepreneurship, job training, job creation, tax policies, work ethics, regulations; Child Care - latch key children, licensing, working parents, single parent families, improving the quality of child care, private sector and child care; Health - nutrition, prenatal care, parent education, mental health, access to health services, continuum of care; Child Welfare Services - emergency services, permanency planning, preventive care; Education - sex education, financing, family life preparation and parenting, vandalism, dropouts, after school activities, career preparation and special needs; Child Abuse and Neglect - sexual abuse, children in danger, residential care; Juvenile Justice - legal system, secure care, crime and violence. Other topics frequently covered included public and private sector cooperation, networking, recreation and leisure time, and children with special needs. A few States limited their conferences to a discussion of one subject. Their workshops frequently concentrated on these more narrowly focused sub-topics. For example, California, Minnesota and Washington conducted individual workshops on job training, job development, counseling, youth entrepreneurship, tax policies affecting youth employment, and work ethics, rather than conducting one general workshop on youth employment.

A few general topics recurred with such frequency and concern that they merit further discussion. The issue of youth employment was addressed in over half the States holding conferences. Connecticut, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota and

Washington chose it as a major conference theme. If combined with related topics as child care, education (career preparation), and private sector involvement, the topic was touched upon in some form in most of the conferences. Inflation, high youth unemployment rates, social service cutbacks, reductions in Federal budget expenditures, and continuing concern with youth problems found expression in extensive discussions of youth employment issues. States explored a wide range of sub-topics including tax policies to encourage employment, career training in school and on the job, creation of job opportunities, and State and Federal regulations and legislation inhibiting youth employment.

The general topic of education was also discussed at most conferences. Several education subjects overlapped with other broad areas, as career preparation courses with employment, and sex education curriculum with teenage pregnancy. The subjects explored ranged widely. They included discussion of curricula, need for equitable distribution of State funds, after school activities, gifted and talented children, mainstreaming handicapped children, school vandalism and dropouts. The education system frequently became the locus for addressing tangentially related problems or concerns. Examples include establishing a variety of after school recreation and leisure activities to accomodate latch key children and "bored" youth; utilizing fully school facilities for community activities and adult education courses in parenting; establishing family life education courses to prepare youth for marriage, jobs, and the "adult" world; introducing extensive sex education courses to address problems of teenage pregnancy; offering effective drug counseling and education to address the pervasive State concern with substance abuse; and providing health screening in each school.

Health and health related topics were a third major subject of recurring concern to States holding workshop conferences. Comprehensive health services, health screening, health education, preventive care model, early intervention programs, education on parenting nutrition, mental health, prenatal care, need for increased funds, adolescent pregnancy, and availability of health services were topics that arose frequently in conference workshops. Mental health and prenatal care topics recurred most frequently.

Child welfare, child abuse and neglect, and juvenile justice issues were also recurring topics of State conference workshops. In discussing these issues, many conferences supported preventive measures to solving youth problems. Consequently, provision of family support services was frequently cited as a means to addressing stressful family situations that might erupt into child abuse or necessitate foster care placement for affected children. Prevalent topics for discussion included the importance of comprehensive emergency and family support

services; more, and better licensed foster care facilities; tighter administrative control and increased accountability within the States' foster care systems; child sexual abuse; encouraging and facilitating permanent homes and placements for children adrift in the system; streamlining court procedures to assure prompt and careful disposition of juvenile cases; separating youth involved in misdemeanors from felons and "hard core" serious offenders; and providing alternatives such as half-way houses for dealing with youthful offenders. Violence, juvenile delinquency and vandalism also were discussed in numerous workshop deliberations. Recommendations often reflected very different approaches from stiffer penalties to provision of extensive services designed to address multiple problems and causes.

Alcoholism, drug abuse, and teenage pregnancy also recur as important State concerns. Many States focused on the role of schools in addressing these issues. Alcohol and drug abuse problems prompted recommendations affecting school curricula, after-school activities, school supervision, counseling services, and parent education. In addition, drug and drinking laws, community treatment programs, and media portrayal of youth were issues frequently mentioned. Establishing programs designed to serve children of alcoholic parents was a prominent concern of the New York Conference. Teenage pregnancy also received prominent attention. Discussions focused on the role of schools, parents, and community resources to address a problem which one State characterized as reaching epidemic proportions.

Child care received prominent attention. Its visibility is not unexpected as day care influences many aspects of family life and children and youth issues. Quality and availability of day care continue to be of concern to most conferences. Licensing of facilities, latch-key children, tax incentives, assessment of needs, lack of business commitment to providing child care, increasing numbers of single parent families, costs, training and monitoring of providers, establishment of resource and referral agencies, were among the more common issues probed. As with most topics that touched upon service delivery, discussions turned to the need for greater coordination among the public agencies, the providers, public schools, and the private sector.

Also noteworthy was the recurrence of cross-cutting concerns including the need for improved public/private sector cooperation, expanded networking and use of volunteers, improving the quality and amount of media coverage, and coordination and integration of services. Whether as a conference theme, workshop subject, or common thread of several workshop deliberations, these issues were of pervasive concern to States pressed by the reality of a weakened economy and scarcer resources stretched thin by increasing demand. Exploring ways of ameliorating these problems became implicit or explicit topics of many conferences.

Improving the quality of services delivered, ensuring that needed services were not squandered in duplicative efforts, finding new methods of integrating services to reach more people effectively at reduced costs per constituent, enlisting the cooperation and commitment of business in improving existing programs and implementing new programs, and rethinking how volunteers could serve youth and children in both private and public sector roles were goals that punctuated the final reports. State recommendations and findings related to these and other recurring subjects are contained in Chapter IV.

KEY

- • Referenced
- X Major Concern
- ⊠ Conference Theme
- S Survey

CONFERENCE SUBJECTS	EMPLOYMENT	CHILD CARE	HEALTH	CHILD WELFARE SERVICES	EDUCATION	CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT	JUVENILE JUSTICE/DELINQUENCY	PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT	VOLUNTEERISM	ALCOHOLISM/DRUG ABUSE	TEENAGE PREGNANCY	MEDIA'S ROLE	COOPERATION/COORDINATION	ROLE OF GOVERNMENT	NETWORKING	RECREATION/LEISURE
1. Alabama		NO		CONFERENCE												
2. Alaska		NO		CONFERENCE												
3. Arizona		NO		CONFERENCE												
4. Arkansas		NO		CONFERENCE												
5. California	⊠			X			X							X		
6. Colorado	X		X													
7. Connecticut	X		X	X	X	•	X	X	X	•		X	X		X	
8. Delaware		NO		C	O	N	F	E	R	E	N	C	E			
9. District of Columbia	X	X	X		•		X	X	X	•		•	X		X	X
10. Florida	•	•	X	X	X	X	X	•		•	•	•	•			
11. Georgia	X	X	X		X			⊠	X	X	X		X		•	
12. Hawaii	X			X	X	X	X			X						X
13. Idaho				X	X	X	X		X	X	X					
14. Illinois	X	X	X	X	X											
15. Indiana	⊠	X	X		X	X	X	•			X					
16. Iowa	·					X	⊠			X						
17. Kansas	⊠		X	X	X											
18. Kentucky		X	X	X	X	•				X	X					
19. Louisana	X		X		X	•	X	X	X	X					X	X
20. Maine	X		X					·					•			
21. Maryland	X	X			X	X	X	X		X	X	•				X
22. Massachusetts	X		X	X	X		X						X		X	
23. Michigan	X	X	X	X	X		X	⊠			X		X	⊠		
24. Minnesota	⊠	X		X	X			X				X			X	
25. Mississippi								⊠								
26. Missouri			X	X	X		X	⊠	•				•			
27. Montana	X				X			X		S						S
28. Nebraska		NO			CO	N	F	E	R	E	N	C	E			
29. Nevada				•		⊠	•									
30. New Hampshire	X		X	X	X		X	X	⊠				•			
31. New Jersey	X		X	X	X		X	X					⊠		X	
32. New Mexico	X		X		X	•				X		•				
33. New York	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	•			X		•	•		
34. North Carolina	X	X	X		X			⊠	•							
35. North Dakota		NO			CO	N	F	E	R	E	N	C	E			
36. Ohio	X	X	X		X	X	X	•	⊠	X		•	⊠			X
37. Oklahoma		NO			CO	N	F	E	R	E	N	C	E			
38. Oregon		NO			CO	N	F	E	R	E	N	C	E			
39. Pennsylvania	TE	L	E	C	O	N	F	E	R	E	N	C	E			
40. Rhode Island	X		X	X	X		X			S				S		
41. South Carolina		X	X	X	X	X	X				X					
42. South Dakota		NO			CO	N	F	E	R	E	N	C	E			
43. Tennessee								X	⊠				X		X	
44. Texas		S	S		S		S			S	S		S			
45. Utah	TR	A	I	N	I	N	G			C	O	N	F	•		
46. Vermont	•	X	X		⊠	⊠	X		•				•	S		•
47. Virginia		NO			CO	N	F	E	R	E	N	C	E			
48. Washington	⊠							•					•			
49. West Virginia		X	X		X	•				•						
50. Wisconsin		X		⊠									X			
51. Wyoming	X		X	X	X	•					X					X
52. American Samoa	NO	T		S	U	B	M	I	T	T	E	D				
53. Guam	•			•	•	•	•			•						
54. Puerto Rico	•		•		•		•				•					
55. Trust Territory	NO	T		S	U	B	M	I	T	T	E	D				
56. Virgin Islands				•												

CHAPTER IV

STATE RECOMMENDATIONS: A SELECTIVE SUMMARY

State Findings/Recommendations

The recommendations presented in this chapter are a sampling from the 45 State conference reports. Because the recommendations emanate from diverse perspectives, many conclusions may not be relevant, useful to, or supported by every State or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The recommendations will, however, permit States and participants to compare notes and stimulate a dialogue valuable to all committed to improving the quality of life for children and youth. For readers interested in reviewing individual State reports, Appendix A contains a verbatim executive summary of each conference's activities, a list of substantive topics explored by each conference and the name of a contact person who can provide more detailed information.

Not all reports submitted include findings. Several States wished to promote conference outcomes that were not compatible with the conference/workshop format and its resulting set of recommendations. These States supplanted the conference format with a variety of approaches discussed earlier in this summary. These approaches were enthusiastically embraced by the respective state conference coordinators. While not providing recommendations, their final reports describe approaches and activities that offer the reader a source of new ideas to enrich State and private sector involvement with children and youth.

The recommendations from the state reports are divided into the following categories for ease of reference: Health, Education, Youth Employment, Day Care, Child Welfare Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Recreation and Leisure Activities, Juvenile Justice, Teenage Pregnancy, and Child Abuse and Neglect.

Health

- Investigate availability of creative funding from the private sector for health and nutrition programs.
- Develop and disseminate a directory of available health and social services for children and youth.
- Ensure that programs and services, both public and private, are not duplicated.

- Encourage and provide funding for community-based organizations providing health and mental health.

- Mandate a comprehensive Health Education/Nutrition Program for grades K-12.

- Establish child passenger safety legislation for children under four years old.

- Emphasize primary prevention and early intervention through development of programs in the voluntary sector (private agencies, civic groups, churches, etc.) and in public and non-profit agencies related to early intervention (schools, hospitals, health departments).

- Create linkages among all mental health agencies, social institutions, individuals, and agencies involved in the care and treatment of children by establishing interagency commissions at the State and local levels.

- Provide ongoing evaluation and monitoring of mental health programs.

- Ensure that children and youth obtain their share of the State mental health dollar by allocating to them a percentage of funds equal to that percentage of children within the State's total population.

- Establish a continuum of mental health service programs.

- Establish programs to ensure that transportation to mental health agencies is available to those in need of assistance; require schools to facilitate mental health services within school settings; establish incentives for businesses to develop responsible family employment practices and employee assistance programs.

- Define clearly the needs and legal rights of children and youth in assessing mental health services.

- Include education on parenting and family life in the school curriculum beginning with first graders.

- Enforce existing immunization laws.

- Increase community education for early childhood preventive health services.

- Increase interagency coordination to assure early immunization.

- Incorporate parenting education into the services provided by subsidized day care.

- Implement a campaign to discontinue corporal punishment in group homes and public schools.

- Make preventive health screening a requirement for Medicaid children.

- Update the State school health code.

- Develop financial support for children not included in the health care network by allocating general funds for non-medical eligible indigent children.

- Establish a program for parents of pregnant youth to help them cope with their own feelings, as well as the feelings of their child.

- Allow State support for independent living arrangements for youth that are safe but do not "fit" current State regulations.

- Increase the number of child development training programs.

- Develop public awareness programs about handicapping conditions that include identification and referral to appropriate agencies.

- Develop a Statewide directory (with a toll-free number) of available regional services for initial referrals, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of handicapping conditions.

- Develop a system to track the care of each handicapped child.

- Combine voluntary medical and dental services and include them in comprehensive services for indigent children.

- Commit increased public dollars for health services to indigent children.

- Establish a comprehensive community system of mental health and mental retardation services to ensure that no citizen becomes institutionalized due to the unavailability of adequate, less restrictive care. Violent and dangerous patients should be confined and receive treatment in locked settings that would ensure careful assessment of progress to guarantee, in so far as possible, their safety in the community before discharge is allowed.

- Do not consider policy decisions that could result in unnecessary institutionalization of mentally ill or mentally retarded persons.

- Establish or maintain a strong commitment to immunization and fluoridation programs.

- Reduce infant mortality by: Targeting efforts at population groups and geographic areas with high infant mortality rates; preventing low birth weight infants; providing good prenatal care, quality obstetrical care, and good prenatal nutrition; establishing systematic anti-smoking campaigns; and engaging in research to reduce miscarriages.

- Strengthen efforts to develop positive, preventive health habits among children and youth, particularly in the areas of smoking prevention, physical fitness, and nutrition education.

- Provide the State with sufficient staff and resources to fulfill four primary functions; collecting and disseminating data; developing and enforcing health care standards; providing technical assistance; and administering funds for health care services.

- Encourage research to determine the factors contributing to strong and healthy families from different life styles.

- Obtain increased revenues for children's services by passing additional State taxes, such as a levy on the marriage license and increased tax on tobacco and alcohol.

- Expand the availability of evening health care services for children since so many parents work during the day.

- Provide comprehensive adolescent pregnancy prevention and treatment programs, free pregnancy testing, early pre-natal care, and health care of infants born to teenagers.

- Provide periodic mandatory physical examinations of school children. Include eye and dental examinations.

- Support the establishment of a centralized program office responsible for children's services which would determine current budgetary and expenditure levels and recognize the need for equity in spending for children and youth services.

- Assure coordination of services among State agencies dealing with children to eliminate gaps in service delivery.

- Structure requirements for high school to match entry requirements for jobs, life in society, entrepreneurship, and college.
- Develop an internship and cooperative education program that utilizes agencies and businesses.
- Develop plans to encourage students to stay in school, including increased utilization of counselors.
- Develop a system to ensure effective mainstreaming of special education students into available training programs at the junior and senior high levels.
- Share space between the school system and other agencies to ensure that there are no underutilized floors in school buildings.
- Distribute State education funds more equitably within the State.
- Encourage academic excellence and achievement at all grade levels in all areas.
- Research and establish higher academic standards while recognizing individual needs.
- Support the concept of school-based management and local control with rewards and penalties appropriately applied to local districts.
- Provide salaries adequate to attract capable teachers, provide better learning materials, and reduce jurisdictional inequities.
- Institute teacher competency testing for subject mastery and use of English language, provide compensation education, and assign the best teachers to earliest grades.
- Promote students based on achievement, not age.
- Provide isolated classrooms for disruptive children.
- Provide parents with more information and education about their children's rights, services available, and career and job oportunities; provide support activities to better relate

parents of handicapped children to service providers; provide exercise classes tailored to the disabilities of physically handicapped children.

- Limit children's television viewing time; do not use television as a baby-sitter.

- Promote vocational programs at an earlier age by encouraging local business to provide career on-the-job training opportunities through tax incentive legislation to businesses, using social workers as resource people in schools to get parents and students together, providing more active and aggressive counseling in homes and communities.

- Emotionally Disturbed: Develop a needs assessment; coordinate health services, counseling services within each school; seek alternative funding from foundations, civic groups, and corporations; improve in-service training.

- Talented and Gifted Child: Develop programs and opportunities tailored to needs; provide early identification; develop more creative uses of community resources, i.e., computer, engineering, on-site; reduce the teacher/pupil ratio; train regular classroom teachers and aides; employ a full-time coordinator for testing, coordinating community resources, training, etc.; develop graduate school course work in the area.

- Latch-key Child: Coordinate and expand use of existing resources; use public school building to provide supervised program of recreation art and in the evening for parents and children; use volunteers and volunteer programs (e.g., the foster grandparent program); expand range of child care services.

- Reorganize school districts to accomodate severely declining enrollments; encourage private sector involvement and work study programs.

- Provide adequate funding to meet the needs of children in kindergarten, Head Start, day care, protective services, adoption, and foster care; provide classes in child development in high school.

- Coordinate and consolidate services at the community level.

- Retain sex equity as a priority commitment of the Federal government and make it a priority of State governments.

- Introduce occupational information in educational programs, beginning in elementary school so that work related sex stereotypes can be addressed at the earliest possible time.

- Compensate for the Federal dollars devoted to educational equity for women and girls that may be lost by Federal cutbacks.

- Consider issues of sex equity in future revisions of the educational curriculum.

- Encourage greater parent interest and involvement in the education of their children.

- Restore and increase managerial and academic quality in public education by: Guaranteeing the physical safety of students within the public schools; raising curricular and achievement standards; returning to basic academic instruction and increasing discipline within the schools; reforming employment practices to ensure sound hiring practices that bring competent, adequately prepared, motivated, and dedicated personnel into public school systems; and resisting forces striving to eliminate humanistic education.

- Ensure that the education provided adequately prepares children and youth for responsible and productive adulthood in an increasingly complex and technological society. Suggestions include developing critical world issues curricula, examining the future of society, establishing stronger linkages between public school systems and community colleges, and ensuring that all high school graduates have at least one marketable employment skill.

- Foster positive social behavior by: Establishing self-improvement classes and self-help courses; offering more intense counseling; using peer group therapy.

- Reduce the incidence of school vandalism and violence.

Youth Employment

- Improve the coordination among those individuals and institutions best able to address the problems of youth unemployment. Efforts are often redundant, wasteful, and lack direction.

- Establish adopt-a-school programs. Address legal and union barriers. Combine school and work and proceed youth by youth, block by block rather than globally.

- Develop and support a literacy center.

- Explore the feasibility of setting up a public employment corporation.

- Develop strategies to encourage more public knowledge and discussion of the negative effects of stereotyping in education and employment and of the positive steps that are being taken at State and local levels to combat those effects.

- Offer city and state tax incentives to corporations willing to develop corporate child care either through developing their own centers, offering employee vouchers, subsidizing existing centers or other ways.

- Change regulations so that parents on public assistance would be eligible for child care when they receive training or attend school as well as when they work for wages.

- Use well equipped facilities (i.e., public vocational schools) for vocational training geared to out-of-school populations.

- Improve career preparation, including comprehensive career-education programs for kindergarten through high school students; mandate competence tests at regular intervals for the basic 3-R skills; establish career resource centers; provide early assessment of skills; teach basic life-adjustment and survival skills; and, provide various work-training experiences.

- Expand employment opportunities by: on-the-job training; encouraging new industries; enhancing opportunities for youth employment through tax incentives and other means; and, examining when necessary, reforming those rules and regulations that discourage youth employment.

- Ensure that conference recommendations are disseminated. The White House Conferences on Children and Youth in 1960 and 1970 had come to remarkably similar conclusions regarding the inadequacy of basic-skills training, the lack of job opportunities for youth, and the absence of effective coordination among career-counseling services.

- Develop remedies for four major characteristics that inhibit youth in their job seeking abilities - poor work ethics, poor basic skills, lack of career awareness, and deficient job search skills.

- Develop communication vehicles to relate opportunities to youth.

- Disseminate information regarding programs, legislation and incentives that can educate and motivate the employers to hire youth.

- Remove major legal and regulatory obstacles to hiring youth, especially those imposed by Federal, State and union labor laws which restrict youth from operating heavy equipment and limit the number of hours youth can work after school.

- Legislate a sub-minimum wage or training stipend. High wages and increases in insurance premiums for general safety and legal vehicle liability discourage employers from hiring youth.

- Look into employers concern with Federal requirements to transfer the subsidized trainees to unsubsidized States within a 120-day period.

- Review the following concerns in the area of high technology: regulatory and legal requirements, lack of technical skills, and the expense of training youth who will not remain beyond the summer.

- Encourage youth entrepreneurship by providing jobs that will promote personal development and future job orientation and aspirations, instead of quasi-work experience that may curtail achievement motivation levels.

- Provide linkage between the public and private sector and develop a clearer definition of the roles each could play. Solutions include:

  - Establishing links between private, public and education sectors. Develop vehicles for input and interaction between the three sectors.

  - Developing means of communicating training opportunities and youth accomplishments--especially for those youth who are not currently part of the informal network that is already established.

  - Providing accessibility for both youth and employer to accurate and realistic labor market information through local clearinghouses for job orders which would be available for local deliverers.

  - Strengthening youth competence in getting and keeping a job by encouraging a more flexible career/education oriented curriculum in schools and by employers building in skills advancement ladders for all employees, thus opening jobs for less skilled workers.

  - Developing a clearinghouse for jobs so that duplication of effort and clogging the system by too many job search agencies and too few jobs is alleviated.

- Strengthening the involvement of unions in employing and training youth, and in all networking efforts.

o Provide accurate labor market data for each community through a local clearinghouse for job orders to which all local deliverers have access.

o Develop communication vehicles to relay opportunities by establishing a newsletter to all sectors and local networks, and improving the existing networks.

o Prepare employers to accept youth by developing a supervisor's manual and course for working with youth.

o Ensure that youth have transportation to the work site by providing them with information on the types of transportation available, resolving license problems, negotiating car insurance rates, luxury taxes, etc.

o Review Regulations and Legal Requirements: Remove legal and regulatory constraints; attempt to compensate for the loss of CETA funding which has far-reaching effects on vocational education; enact legislation to create incentives for employers such as tax credits; improve the operation of subsidized employement programs.

o Maintain the minimum wage at its current level, lower the minimum age for work permits to 14 years, increase a revolving loan fund available to small businesses, publicize successful work role models, and emphasize the establishment and support of small businesses to increase employment opportunities.

Day Care

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o Increase the supply of quality day care services.

o Improve coordination of services for children and youth including before and after school services.

o Ensure more involvement of public schools in finding and providing before and after school programs.

o Increase coordination between public schools and private day care programs.

o Improve coordination among licensing and zoning personnel, and initiate monitoring.

- Link and maximize the use of day care resources through agency(ies) responsible.

- Conduct needs assessment to evaluate present and projected day care needs.

- Improve coordination between public school and day care centers in curriculum development, and transition from day care to public schools.

- Establish a statewide coalition of community advocacy groups committed to school-age child care.

- Clarify the issues for effective advocacy; establish a strong case for school age child care; and compile a needs assessment which would address total potential need, based on state family demographics and employment statistics, the differing needs of all age groups, from the early school child through adolescence, and a census of currently existing programs and program constituencies.

- Develop a comprehensive and effective State day care policy.

- Promote the establishment of day care resource and referral agencies throughout the State.

- Encourage State agencies and employers providing day care subsidies to parents to increase parental choice in making child care arrangements through the use of day care vouchers.

- Supplement the cost of child care, as necessary, for children of AFDC recipients to ensure access to quality day care of parental choice.

- Provide tax credits and deductions to support in-home family care.of handicapped children.

- Recognize that the best day care is provided by families and make staying at home economically feasible for mothers.

- Encourage student participation in their own services and after school activities. Students should be involved in planning, problem formulation and problem solving.

- Publicize the merits of service to youth, parents and the community. Students need to be involved in meaningful service activities. Outreach to youngsters should be expanded. Community leaders should be educated regarding the need for more services for children after school.

- Institute collaborative efforts with business, industry, and private sector providers around a range of options as:
  - Vouchers for parents to use in obtaining child care.
  - Information and referral services.
  - Slots in centers and homes paid for by the employer.
  - Businesses owning and operating day care services.
  - Businesses providing space for a center operated by someone else.
  - Businesses giving cash contributions on an annual basis for child care facilities.
  - Several businesses supporting one child care facility.
  - Businesses providing guarantees for loans.
  - Businesses and industries providing lower interest loans or liberal payment plans for loans.
- Increase public awareness of the availability of services, and how to select services.
- Establish an office to handle children and youth affairs and day care - consolidate major programs.
- Develop or increase State tax credits for day care services for single-parent and multi-child households.
- Explore feasibility of privately subsidized day care based on sliding scale payments for families of all income levels.
- Provide a neighborhood or community based system for "latch key" children.
- Ensure collaboration of community, private and public efforts, and reexamine work practices that affect care of children, such as flexible working hours, part-time or shared positions, leave privileges, etc.
- Provide for adequate licensing of day care facilities, enforcement of existing requirements and simplification of requirements.
- Explore tax incentives to encourage and support implementation of community-based day care facilities and on-site services at places of employment.

- Establish day care as a priority item for low-interest government loans to private day care programs for operational or capital improvement purposes.

- Explore ways for unions to offer child care services to employees as a negotiable fringe benefit in collective bargaining.

- Increase training and monitoring activities.

Child Welfare Services

- Prepare States to meet the goals and requirements of PL 96-272, The Child Welfare and Adoption Assistance Act of 1980.

- Improve legal procedures to facilitate the adoption process.

- Institute a guardian ad litem program to provide legal representation for all dependent children (abused, neglected, abandoned children, and children charged with status offenses, e.g., runaways, ungovernables, truants).

- Provide essential services through a partnership between local governments, and private and/or public agencies to supplement State and federal dollars.

- Prevent duplication and overlapping of services.

- Improve coordination of services.

- Set priorities for funding of services to children and families.

- Improve the quality of foster care, and provide case planning for each child in need.

- Develop a network of out-of-home residential treatment placements.

- Improve existing preventive and support services and develop additional services to meet evolving family needs and mitigate against the negative impact of a poor economy. Such services might include private sector tax incentives

for job training or parents and youth, volunteer services, recreational programs, community resources, and financial management services.

- Ensure that the States' permanency planning system includes the following essential elements: Services to biological families, before, during and after placement, including home-makers, 24-hour emergency, counseling, and respite care services; public information; administrative elements including mission statement, case management, quality control, program audits and evaluation, inventory of clients, method of identifying children in other systems, adequately prepared foster parents, staff training; an adoption program serving all children and providing supportive services to adoptive parents as long as needed; adequate legal services, including training for attorneys and judges in the area of child development; an adequate statutory base; advocacy external to the social service system; adequate family supports (i.e., income, housing, and health care); external review; and adequate financial resources.

- Establish and maintain a continuum of child welfare services.

- Ensure a balance between the rightful tasks, activities, and decision making areas of social workers and attorneys.

- Require that programs supervising health care for foster children provide the following: Continuity of comprehensive primary health care, including medical, dental and psycho-social care; true integration between health care and every other aspect of care, including the social worker as the case manager, psychiatric crisis intervention, and educational and vocational planning; ready availability and good, prompt communication with qualified medical specialists; provisions for emergency care; ongoing age-related health education of the children, their natural and foster parents, and child care staff; and, detailed planning for discharge from foster care and for adequate medical care following discharge.

- Identify and overcome unmet needs for attaining high quality health care for foster children. Recommendations include improved systems for obtaining and recording family and personal histories of all newborn children and increased funds for provision of health care.

- Gather further knowledge for future planning for health supervision of children in foster care. Agendas for research include:

  - What are the major medical and dental problems children of different ages have when they enter foster care?

- How are these problems being handled in different programs?

- What is the status of the problems at varying periods of time during foster care?

o Develop and encourage volunteer programs to serve families by in-home visits, by providing information about available services, and serving as a support system for new families in need.

o Improve court procedures for handling foster care cases and adoptions.

o Provide more emergency foster homes with trained foster parents and adequate staff and funding.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse

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o Provide a comprehensive education to students on the causes, results and prevention of alcohol and drug abuse.

- Develop programs that reduce peer pressure to use drugs and alcohol and that encourage peer pressure to avoid such substances.

- Explore the use of reformed alcoholics and rehabilitated drug addicts in addition to other appropriate role models for students.

- Identify and provide after-school activities that have specific appeal to substance abusers and to potential users of alcohol and drugs.

- Employ the use of the media in promoting greater awareness of this problem in the schools, home and community.

o Improve supervision at schools to reduce drinking, drug use and drug trafficking.

- Provide qualified counselors as "campus" walkers. Train and support school personnel and professionals in efforts to halt illegal activities.

- Provide teachers and other school personnel with information on ways to detect suspected cases of substance abuse and to follow-through with appropriate support services.

- Keep parents informed as to the physical symptoms and consequences of drug use and heavy drinking and work closely with them on known or suspected cases of abuse.

o Establish a site or facility in each school for the specific purpose of emergency detainment and care of intoxicated or "strung-out" youth until the arrival of parents, guardians or professional help.

o Provide more services for youthful alcohol or drug users such as drug counseling and rehabilitation, drop-in centers and treatment programs. Consider establishing Alcoholics Anonymous chapters for youth in school districts with high incidence of drinking activities by minors.

o Enforce laws prohibiting sale of liquor to minors and possession of liquor by minors.

o Enforce consistently and effectively drug laws that apply to dealers.

o Establish legal minimum drinking age of 19.

o Integrate substance abuse services with the total community services network.

o Utilize available mental health and social services.

o Increase education and awareness programs for parents.

o Develop peer support and self-help groups for both youth and parents.

o Encourage existing youth programs to incorporate substance abuse education in the organization's activities.

o Develop alternative school programs for drug-involved youth.

o Recommend that parents supervise the mobility and spending habits of their children.

o Involve youth in the mainstream of society.

o Advise television networks of criticism about their portrayal of alcohol and other drug use.

o For children of alcoholic parents:

  - Allocate funding at the Federal and State levels for biological and psycho-social research by interdisciplinary teams looking into the familial patterns and effects of alcoholism with respect to children of alcoholic parents.

- Provide training on issues dealing with children of alcoholic parents for workers in the alcoholism field and for other key child care providers who come in contact with children of alcoholic parents.

- Provide mandatory insurance coverage of alcoholism services for family members including children of alcoholic parents regardless of whether the alcoholic family member is in treatment.

- Earmark prevention funds from the federal block grant for youth prevention/intervention programs.

- Develop prevention/intervention programs to identify children of alcoholic parents within the school setting and provide them with necessary services; provision should be made for education of school personnel to the problems and needs of these children.

- Undertake a State level initiative to develop a small number of demonstration projects in select communities to establish shelters for children of alcoholic parents or alcohol abusing parents who suffer from domestic violence.

- Pass legislation that would allow for the treatment of minors without parental consent since some of the minors are exhibiting alcohol abuse and have parents suffering from alcoholism.

- Make increased funding available for programs for children of alcoholic parents.

Recreation and Leisure Activities

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o Provide more leisure activities with special attention to school sites for after-school activities.

o Encourage the county parks and recreation departments to establish programs.

o Establish neighborhood youth centers.

o Expand opportunities for intramural sports.

o Increase publicity of youth programs to generate support from public, and community agencies and organizations.

- Improve coordination of recreation/leisure activities between the State Agency or organization and youth development programs and ensure coordination of services of recreation providers.

- Open recreation centers for longer hours.

- Develop a plan to recruit, orient and maintain volunteers. Volunteers should receive public recognition for efforts.

- Provide more recreation and leisure time activities in churches, schools and community agencies (i.e., YMCA's).

- Show inexpensive popular movies locally.

Juvenile Justice

- Make delinquency prevention the number one priority of Federal, State and local governments.

- Consider establishing juvenile boards in each county to develop a comprehensive 10 year plan, encourage interagency cooperation, develop a prevention plan that incorporates vocational elements and family involvement, and review quality regularly.

- Develop a system to involve families of children immediately following a contact with the judicial system. Develop a comprehensive range of family-oriented, community-based follow-up services for families and children.

- Establish Federal and State criteria for evaluating existing programs by outside agencies.

- Make Federal, State and local government funds available for community based services to status offenders including short and long term shelter care, family counseling and support services.

- Develop a systematic approach for treating status offenders to: divert them from the juvenile justice system through utilization of early intervention; establish specialized judicial services for habitual offenders (including shelters); establish independent living program utilizing foster care or emancipation.

- Increase job opportunities for youth (see Youth Employment Section).

- o Separate violent hardcore law violators from non-violent and other youth needing protection and supervision in detention facilities.

- o Provide foster homes as an option for placement of youth in need of shelter care. Encourage more people to participate in foster care programs. Provide training for foster parents.

- o Explore feasibility of low interest government loans in the development or renovation of youth shelters and facilities.

- o Continue government subsidies for quality shelter services.

- o Encourage local private sector cooperation to establish 24-hour crisis hotlines, develop Parents Anonymous chapters, develop volunteer parent aide programs, develop crisis daycare services.

- o Provide parent and child development education programs, especially for teenage parents.

- o Increase public education and outreach efforts.

  - Oppose corporal punishment as a viable disciplinary technique.

  - Change attitudes about having children.

  - Emphasize the appropriateness of seeking help.

- o Increase interagency coordination and cooperation, and reduce gaps in services.

- o Involve youth in evaluating juvenile justice programs and providing input at all levels of the system, including program development and evaulation.

- o Emphasize public and private sector collaboration and coordination in developing new programs and alternatives for youth in the system, encouraging sharing of resources and increasing efficiency in program operations.

- o Provide urine testing at the Courts at intake and during supervised probation to detect need for assistance in area of substance abuse. Other support agencies should have indirect access to this information.

- o Recommend that private organizations monitor media's portrayal of juveniles.

- Develop alternative programs using innovative approaches as restitution, diversion and mediation sessions.

- Establish a monitoring system to reduce duplication of services, increase collaboration among agencies, ensure youth input, and establish new and improved programs and services.

- Handle repeat offenders more severely.

- Enact strict hand gun controls.

- Develop a vandal "profile".

- Provide recreational alternatives.

- Encourage victims to press charges.

- Increase school security in high-crime areas.

- Encourage stronger parental supervision.

- Devise ways to strengthen communication links between the family, schools, and places of worship so that their training and socialization efforts become mutually reinforcing.

- Establish in the State and local communities a massive volunteer effort utilizing youth to achieve four fundamental goals: To serve as models and examples; to teach services as a desirable activity rewarded by society; to instill a sense of belonging for the youth in the community; to encourage communication and interrelationship between key community institutions.

- Create in each community a network of resources for the early identification of and effective action on emerging youth problems.

- Ensure that the police and courts increase the use of restitution and community service programs for youthful offenders.

- Increase the use of community volunteers in probation work in the courts.

- Promote a system of paid or unpaid practicums and apprenticeships for junior and senior high school students.

- Prevent delinquency by establishing a government policy to encourage more family oriented television and radio programming and discourage offensive advertising, enforcing strong

laws restricting dissemination of pornographic materials, implementing a tax credit or voucher system enabling parents to choose the schools their children attend, and prohibiting secular humanism in public schools.

- Create community dispute resolution boards.

- Encourage mothers to stay at home by lowering State and Federal tax rates.

- Improve assessment and support services within the jail and within the community for older adolescents. Needed services include basic education, vocational training, teaching of decision-making skills, programs which involve parents of youth, mental health services, drug and alcohol abuse treatment, and programs to meet physical and health needs of young people.

- Increase restitution and community service programs, which would provide judges with a sentencing option to jail for some youth.

Teenage Pregnancy

- Stress personal beliefs, values and decisions (along with health and anatomy) in sex education counseling.

- Employ effective methods to inform parents and youth about birth control and family planning by utilizing multi-media resources and exploring the feasibility of peer counseling on sex-related matters for those students in need.

- Provide the necessary guidance and support services for prospective youthful parents by removing all barriers to early diagnosis of pregnancy, adequate health assessment and professional prenatal care; ensuring that pregnant adolescents are afforded supplementary health and social services; providing counseling to adolescent mothers and fathers; and ensuring that they can continue their schooling.

- Employ actively the existing community and private resources to complement and assist in the delivery of these services. Consider contracting with various groups and organizations that address specific needs.

- Encourage use of para-professionals and trained volunteers to help deliver services.

- Encourage parents to be the primary sex educators--they need to communicate more effectively about sexuality.

- Provide supports and services to teenage parents including prenatal and postnatal care, child care, parenting education, family planning, employment assistance.

- Develop a state wide directory describing services, resources, and locations pertaining to family planning, pregnancy, and parenting.

- Shift some program emphasis to the male teenager.

- Increase parent-school cooperation.

- Increase parental efforts to monitor and discuss TV programs.

- De-emphasize sexual connotations in movies, television, and advertisements.

- Prepare a clear and comprehensive information booklet for professionals covering the services to which adolescents are entitled under existing federal and State regulations.

- Establish an "800" phone number where information on regulations and services would be available, or designate a person(s) in the State government who could supply such information.

- Identify and eliminate contradictions, inconsistencies and unnecessary complexities in law and regulations.

- Provide for better dissemination of information within agencies, so that workers know the appropriate actions to take.

- Mandate that schools arrange for child care for young women who need it. Encourage industry to provide child care for the young children of its workers.

- Include, rather then exclude, public assistance funding to encourage grandparents who might wish to take care of their young grandchildren while their mothers work by offering grandparents some reimbursement.

- Review public assistance reimbursements for day care expenses to make sure that they are adequate.

- Explore innovative ways of providing prenatal care to increase its availability and possibly reduce the cost. Examples include the use of non-physician health personnel (such as nurse practitioners and midwives) and non-hospital settings (including mobile clinics in rural areas).

- Establish in hospitals a hotline service for young mothers to call when they have questions about the care of their children, since the children of adolescents are at especially high risk of serious illness and death.

- Require schools to compile and report the reasons why young people drop out of school in order to prevent schools from ignoring or exacerbating problems associated with teenage pregnancy.

- Remove institutional barriers to ensure that young mothers can continue their education.

- Provide counseling in school to help young parents cope with their responsibilities.

- Offer young mothers remedial education to help them overcome educational barriers to graduating from high school or passing an equivalency exam.

Child Abuse and Neglect

- Provide State-wide services for child protection so that reports of abuse and neglect can be responded to promptly and effectively.

- Provide follow-through supportive services including medical and local assistance, family counseling, social and mental health services, information and referral, investigation and rehabilitation.

- Establish network of 24-hour crisis shelters.

- Establish 24-hour help lines for juveniles in crisis.

- Establish programs for early detection of high risk families.

- Make an offense endangering the welfare of a minor a felony, not a misdemeanor.

- Educate the public concerning the growing incidence of child-abuse and neglect and its correlation to other manifested anti-social and abnormal behavior, such as crime, delinquency, substance abuse, promiscuity and suicide.

- Encourage the use of trained volunteers in community-based facilities.

- Establish a network of community-based shelter facilities to provide emergency or temporary placement of youth in need of protection.

- Establish prevention projects such as family oriented birthing centers, prenatal assessment programs, adequate nutritional programs, parent education centers, self-help groups, therapeutic play groups for children, quality day care (using teens to help tots), corporal punishment alternatives, and public communication and education on related issues.

- Address the problem of child abuse and neglect by allocating sufficient funds to enable the agency to fulfill its mandate, and by directing additional resources to the prevention of abuse and neglect, not simply to costly after-the-fact treatment.

CONCLUSION

The 1982 White House Conference on Children and Youth was not one conference but hundreds of conferences, meetings, activities, hearings, fairs, exhibits, workshops, training sessions, information booths, dinners, awards ceremonies and local events that celebrated a common commitment to our future generations of young people. The commitment assumed forms as varied as the interests and needs of our diverse State populations. Most States enterprisingly and enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to design and plan their own activities. Forty-five States, territories, and the District of Columbia participated and appeared pleased with the opportunity and rewarded by their efforts.

State efforts were extensive, not just in the variety of conference activities held. Pre-conference planning and conference events involved tens of thousands of people. Broad citizen participation in the 1981 Conferences grew out of a State government and private citizen recognition of the importance of individual commitment to children and youth in a period of rapidly changing Federal, State and Local government roles. Having recently become involved in New Federalism, most States valued the opportunity to discuss children and youth program and spending priorities with concerned citizens. In turn, private citizens, perhaps sensitive to their enhanced influence, seized the opportunity to become involved in the State conferences. Whether provoked by a changing Federal role, accessible conference activities, a heightened concern for children and youth programs, an aggressive outreach by State coordinators, or a continuing professional interest in the field, participants joined in conference activities in impressive numbers.

A few general observations are suggested by the contents of the final reports. Youth, not children, were the predominant focus of most conference deliberations. While child care, child health, child abuse, prenatal care, adoption assistance, and other child focused topics were prevalent, most workshop activities related to youth, including youth employment, school curricula, juvenile delinquency, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, and the multiple topics related to these general areas.

Frequently voiced was the belief that children and youth problems must be viewed within the context of the family and that strengthening the family unit will bring direct benefits to its members. Conferences addressed the many factors which combine to create family well-being including mental and physical health, employment, money, education, leisure time, sense of accomplishment, aspirations, housing, friends, and a myriad of other factors. Conferences also addressed influences

on the quality of family life, and frequently stressed the need for family support services, parenting education, adequate child care, and employer impact on family life.

Preventive services such as child care, homemaker services, emergency shelters, legal aid, and accessible health care were consistently cited as important to sustaining family bonds during a crisis. As one conference indicated, a fundamental issue is defining the role the State government must play to support and strengthen families in light of new federalism and current fiscal constraints.

While States may not have been in agreement on the specific policies, programs, or priorities necessary to improve the welfare of children, most agreed on the necessity to utilize properly the increasingly precious resources available. State conferences endorsed the importance of increased private sector involvement, improved coordination in the provision of services, more thoughtful and extensive use of volunteers, and a comprehensive and coordinated focus on families and children and youth. Whether recommendations were directed toward subjects as diverse as encouraging business responsiveness to changing family needs or integrating State funded services and reducing duplication of effort, the desire to maintain and improve conditions with shrinking resources was a strong motivating force in most conference deliberations.

Individual State recommendations varied widely as might be expected of States with dissimilar needs and approaches. A recommendation of particular relevance to one State may be improperly "timed" or politically unacceptable to another State. While most conferences explicitly expressed a desire to maintain or improve the welfare of children and youth, agreement on the locus of these responsibilities was not so clearly deciphered. Most States called upon the State and Federal governments to maintain program and funding commitments to children and youth while simultaneously working to marshall and administer existing resources more productively. However, participants in some conferences alternatively proposed to reduce the Federal and State roles and decrease public social service expenditures.

While consensus among States on the means and immediate goals to strengthening the quality of life for children, youth and families may not be readily apparent, common issues and problems did appear in most of the final reports. Topics of recurring concern were: youth employment, child care, child and family health, foster care, adoption assistance, public education, curricula development, family support services, child abuse, juvenile delinquency, special needs children, alcohol and drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, partnerships between the public and private sectors, networking and service coordination, juvenile justice system, recreation and leisure activities,

youth leadership and involvement in community affairs. State conferences reflected differing perceptions of and solutions to these issues. Providing a glimpse of that variety is the purpose of the national summary.

Within each State, networks have been built, citizen support enlisted, individuals educated, solutions explored, model programs discussed, and agendas created. This report intends that these efforts have value beyond State lines, that the common search for solutions in this period of rapid demographic, political, and financial change will encourage citizens and State governments to share their commitment on behalf of children and youth.

A P P E N D I X A

Appendix A contains the Executive Summaries of participating States' White House Conference activities. Each State prepared and submitted its summary to the United States Department of Health and Human Services to fullfill the terms of its grant award. Each summary is preceded by information to assist the reader in reviewing the summaries. All notations, underlinings, and parenthetical comments (i.e. "See Appendix", "See Attachments", etc.) are the States' and refer to State reports, not to the preceding national report. The reader is directed to the appropriate State contact person for additional information.

C A L I F O R N I A

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Health and Welfare Agency
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TITLE: "California Conference on Youth Employment"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference, (12) workshops.

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Youth Employment; Job Preparation - work ethic, entrepreneurship; Public Information; Education - high technology, electronics, economic development; Networking - incentives for linkages, networking and employers; Regulations and Legal Requirements - legislative issues, subsidized employment; Special Populations - arts, tourism, recreation, disabled youth, inner city and rural youth.

Recommendations: Yes

Model Programs: Yes (see Appendix B)

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The California Conference on Youth Employment was funded by the 1981 White House Conference on Children and Youth, and was held in Los Angeles on December 15-16, 1981. Participants at the conference represented 41 per cent of California's counties and included employers, educators, youth, employment programs and public agency representatives. A synthesis of conference deliberations resulted in three major recommendations:

* For Summer of 1982, continue existing youth employment programs and expand the number of youth served as resources and opportunities become available.

* Increase public and private commitment to job preparation training to address major employer concerns regarding the need for improvement in the "work ethics" and "work readiness" of California's youth labor force.

* Develop organizational structures to coordinate and support networking and collaboration among employers, educators, labor, youth, and public agencies in the design, implementation, and funding of local youth employment programs.

ORIGIN OF CONFERENCE

The California Conference on Youth Employment was funded by a federal grant from the White House Conference on Children and Youth. The Conference focus on youth employment originated from two considerations.

First, "the need for more support of and better information on job training and placement services" was one of the top priorities as voted on by the Statewide delegation to the 1980 Statehouse Conference on Children and Youth. Since that Conference had been held in preparation for the 1981 White House Conference on Children and Youth, it was deemed appropriate to follow this recommendation as the topic for the 1981 California Conference funded by the 1981 White House Conference on Children and Youth.

The second consideration was the availability of current projections that 200,000 youth in California would be unable to find work in Summer of 1982. Additional data have indicated that the problem of youth unemployment in California is increasing in complexity. It extends from the Northern to the Southern borders of the State, across both urban and rural areas, and involves both male and female youth.

Additional factors affecting the youth unemployment problem in California are the particularly high unemployment rates of minority youth and the declining median age for heads of households. In 1980, minority youth 16 to 24 years of age had nearly double the unemployment rate of white youth and three to five times the overall unemployment rate of the total labor force in California. Furthermore, today's youth are making decisions to begin their families earlier; therefore, they need to enter the work force at an earlier age than previously. Taken as a whole, these data indicate that youth unemployment is an important statewide problem in California, and this problem is deserving of statewide consideration.

CONFERENCE PLANNING

Upon notification of receipt of the Federal grant to hold a conference on children and youth in California, a conference planning committee was formed in October of 1981. This committee represented 17 public agencies involved in activities related to youth employment. The planning committee worked together to develop a conference purpose that represented the diverse perspectives of the participating state agencies. The planning committee identified model youth employment programs, topical youth employment issues and a method of selection of conference delegates and resource personnel. The planning committee also identified the need for collaboration with the private sector. Thus, a Steering Committee was convened with representatives from both the public and private sectors. The Steering Committee was responsible for final decisions on conference objectives, identification of exemplary programs, keynote speakers, and program design. State approval for utilization of the Federal grant was obtained November 13, 1981, and a staff of five conference coordinators, a secretary and a word processor were hired on November 17, to implement the conference recommendations of the steering and planning committees.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the conference was to bring together a statewide assembly of employers, educators, youth, employment programs, and public agency personnel, to share information, develop new linkages for follow-up networking, and to develop action plans for hiring youth for the Summer of 1982.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The Conference Program was designed to provide opportunities for information sharing, networking, and the development of action plans. The format included dynamic speakers, workshops and discussions, a resource room, and a job fair.

Speakers. Speakers were selected to provide a timely focus on the problem of youth unemployment and on the social and economic opportunities afforded to the state by the availability of a youth labor force.

Resource Room. A resource room was set aside for model programs to showcase their efforts. Approximately 20 model programs attended and furnished written information about their services. On the second day of the conference, a job fair was conducted for youth in the Los Angeles area. Approximately 20 employers participated by providing youth with job descriptions and employment applications. The 700 youth participating in the job fair were from the Regional Opportunity Program in Los Angeles County.

Workshops. In addition to the large group sessions at breakfast and lunch, twelve morning and afternoon workshop sessions were designed as forums where participants could share information and concerns and develop action plans for hiring youth.

C O L O R A D O

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TITLE: "Youth Conferences"

FORMAT: (6) Regional conferences.

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Employment - career education, coordination, communication, training; Volunteerism; Social Services; Health; Education.

Recommendations: Yes

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June, 1981, the State of Colorado received approximately $37,000 from the Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of convening a conference on Children and Youth. However, the Colorado Human Services Policy Council members and staff made a decision to underwrite six youth conferences in the State of Colorado. Each conference was sponsored by a state human service agency. This concept was approved by the grant manager in Washington, D.C.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES-I Department of Labor and Employment Office of Manpower Planning and Development:

The State of Colorado contracted the services of the Colorado Alliance of Businesss for the implementation of certain activities which would improve the transition of youth from school to work. These activities included: (1) identification of employers who are willing to provide co-op education opportunities for youth, (2) presentation of World of Work orientation sessions for youth and assistance in development of Colorado's Summer Job Hunt '82 and, (3) identification of employers to serve as role models and speakers. Additionally, the CAB participated in and assisted with 13 Delivery System Seminars,

which were conducted through the State of Colorado in preparation for the Summer Job Hunt '82. Approximately 400 participants attended these seminars which focused on younger people, ages 16 through 21.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES-II Colorado Department of Education:

On November 30, 1981, approximately 181 participants from across the state attended the Commissioner's Conference on Youth and were greeted by Commissioner Calvin Frazier. District Superintendents, school board members, parents, teachers, high school and college students and representatives from industry gathered to discuss and make recommendations as to what schools, parents, communities and industry should do to prepare youth for the development of the '80's. The meeting focused on young people ages 16 through 21.

In their small group discussions, the participants made several recommendations for education, business/industry, and community/parents to pursue to prepare young people for the 80's. Those recommendations follow:

Recommendations
State Level

1. Define career education objectives for elementary, junior high and high schools.

2. Examine graduation requirements based on college or North Central requirements and update uniform, minimum state graduation requirements.

3. Develop a coordinating council among higher education, public schools, parents, community, and industry to (1) define the roles and responsibilities of each in the education of youth, (2) identify educational needs, and (3) develop strategies to meet those needs.

4. Analyze and publicize what is already available in the educational community and business community.

5. Eliminate barriers between or "empire building" by state agencies - cultivate ideas or 'one total team of professionals'.

District Level

1. Develop curriculum that will allow students to develop adaptive employability skills, life skills, and realistic career paths through career exploration.

2. Increase career guidance, work experience, practical application of basic skills, and relevant up-dated career information in schools.

3. Provide sabbatical leave for teachers' staff development in light of industrial and societal needs.

4. Initiate dialogue with business, parents, and other community groups for decision-making purposes -- budget, educational objectives, etc.; for determining each groups responsibilities in the edcuational process; and for fostering cooperation and working relationships.

5. Establish a minimum competency skills at each level, minimum writing standards in all courses, and tools for measuring competencies and standards.

6. Provide alternative experiences to meet a variety of needs -- college credit classes, work study, advanced training in vocational education, street academies.

7. Develop programs providing training in communications and interpersonal relations skills; development of ethical standards; understanding of basic economics and applied stewardship of natural resources.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES-III Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation:

Recognizing that the 80's present special changes and challenges for Colorado in light of significant reductions in available Federal funds, particularly in the areas of human services and environmental protection, Governor Richard D. Lamm assigned lead responsiblity to the Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation (OVCP) for coordinating Colorado State Government's development of partnerships with the private sector to promote voluntarism.

Governor Lamm and the OVCP established youth between the ages of 14 and 22 as one of the major target groups for these partnerships in order to address several goals: to increase the involvement of youth in their own communities; to combat problems which occur when you are unable to secure employment; and to establish the pattern of part-time non-stipended voluntarism early in life, which studies have shown is maintained in adult years.

The two geographic locations selected for initial activity were the cities of Denver and Greeley. The OVCP participated in conferences with private voluntary organizations, led by Mile High United Way in Denver and the United Way of Weld County in Greely, to develop Youth Volunteer Programs in these communities. The conferences involved both staff and volunteers from the public and private sectors, including representatives of school

districts, ACTION, private non-profit organizations, local voluntary agencies, volunteer managers, youth, parents, and OVCP volunteer regional directors and appropriate Board members.

Conferences covered the following topics: Techniques to develop, fund, and manage volunteer programs, with special emphasis on youth volunteer programs; incentives to involve youth in voluntarism; options and roles for youth volunteers; special youth supervision methodologies; techniques to motivate, recruit and recognize youth volunteers; establishing a clearinghouse of information on youth voluntarism; developing and maintaining youth volunteer job descriptions for agencies and business; and public relations and community education about opportunities and activities in youth voluntarism.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES-IV Department of Social Services:

The State Department of Education sponsored the joint Social Services/Education conferences which was the impetus for the development of the interagency AGREEMENT between the Department of Social Services and Department of Education.

The Agreement was signed by Ruben A. Valdez, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Social Services and Calvin M. Frazier, Commissioner, Colorado Department of Education, in June 1981, and focuses on the necessity of joint planning for out-of-home placements of children, the requirements of the Handicapped Children's Education Act, and necessity of joint financial responsibility between county departments of social services and local school districts in funding out-of-home placement costs.

For the purpose of implementing the AGREEMENT with county social service departments and local school districts, the joint conference was held on November 19th and 20th, at the Holiday Inn Motel in Dillon, Colorado. The participants included:

County Departments of Social Services	63
Local School Districts	48
Private Providers (RCCF's)	20
State Social Services Staff (including Field Staff)	14
State Education Staff	8
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	153

The agenda covered the policies and procedures for implementation of the Education Agreement at the local level. Participants were reimbursed for one night's lodging, per diem and travel.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES-V Colorado Coalition for Persons with Disabilities:

The Coalition for Persons with Disabilities sponsored an Employment Conference on October 29-30, 1981, at the Holiday Inn in Northglenn, Colorado. The conference entitled "It's Ability That Counts" attracted over 350 participants. The conference included workshops on Job Seeking Skills, Resume writing and other employment related activities. More than 120 individuals from Boettcher School, the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind, and numerous special education classes from schools located along the Front Range counties attended the conference and participated in the workshops.

On the second day, participants were exposed to a number of activities, all geared toward providing them with useful information. These activities included manufacturer exhibits displaying adaptive equipment and employer booths containing information on employment criteria and employment opportunities.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES-VI Department of Health:

The Colorado Department of Health received $3,000 to employ an individual to carry out activities concerning an overview of Maternal and Child Health activities. This individual was employed from July 20 to October 16, 1981. The activities were accomplished and a report was prepared, entitled "Future Directions for Providing Health Care to Colorado's Children and Pregnant Women." This study and report are partially the basis for subsequent planning activities now underway concerning maternity and child health services in Colorado under federal block grants.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES-VII Department of Health:

In May 1980, during a planning meeting of the Colorado Adolescent Task Force, sponsored by the Maternal and Child Health Section of the Colorado Department of Health, adolescent health care was identified as needing increased emphasis. At that time a task force of interested persons with a multi-disciplinary background was formed.

The role of that task force is to: (1) identify needs in the area of adolescent health care; (2) improve the health status of adolescents; (3) reduce adolescent risk factors; and (4) make health care more available to adolescents. During the first two meetings of this group, it was determined that a position paper defining the status of adolescent health in Colorado was needed. Work has progressed to develop the paper, which is available at this time.

The task force believes it is important to develop a common data base, and coordinate federal, state, and local efforts at providing health services for adolescents. The adolescent age group has particular needs in the area of health.

In order to accomplish the above, the $2,800 was used for a conference held in January 1982, for the Adolescent Task Force to meet together regarding the status of adolescent health in Colorado. Eighty professionals were in attendance.

C O N N E C T I C U T

GOVERNOR WILLIAM A. O'NEILL

CONTACT PERSON: Mr. Thomas M. Moriarity
Director of Human Resources
Development Center
Dept. of Children & Youth Services
170 Sigourney Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105
(203) 566-2941

TITLE: "Connecticut's Children - A Shared Responsibility"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference, (7) workshops.

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Child Welfare, Education, Health/Mental Health, Housing, Justice, Working Families, Youth Employment/Training.

Recommendations: Yes - extensive

Model Programs: No

Survey: Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Honorable William A. O'Neill, Governor of Connecticut, appointed Mark J. Marcus, Commissioner of the Department of Children and Youth Services, as Chairman of The Connecticut White House Conference on Children and Youth on June 9, 1981. The Commissioner applied for and received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services the $37,608 set aside for this State's conference. The theme of the one-day conference, held at Yale University on November 23, 1981, was, "Connecticut's Children -- A Shared Responsiblility."

The first order of business following the approval of the grant application was to appoint an Executive Committee comprised of leaders in the fields of business, industry, labor, medicine, law, religion, state and local governments, public and private child caring professions, parents, and students. This group and the Planning Committee which was an outgrowth of the Executive Committee, suggested the seven issue areas which were addressed at the conference -- Child Welfare, Education, Health/Mental Health, Housing, Justice, Working Families and Youth Employment/Training.

Both groups also approved the suggestion to hire a professional pollster to conduct a survey in Connecticut to determine what the average citizen thinks the problem facing children and youth are, and who is responsible for solving those problems. The survey results were used as part of the conference. In summary, the survey revealed that, while the people of the State of Connecticut have accepted the realities of federal budget cut-backs, they are not ready to trim programs which help children and youth. It discovered that the citizens of Connecticut are committed to the young people of the state, acknowledge that they must share responsibility for programs to benefit these young people, and are ready to work with government to do their part.

Planning for the conference was hampered by restrictions of time and money, and those involved in the planning felt strongly that the White House Conference on Children and Youth should be returned to Washington. In spite of the problems, this State's White House Conference on Children and Youth was held and was a success. A total of 460 people representing all the sectors present on the Executive and Planning Committees participated in the Conference. The Conference centered around seven workshops -- each dealing with one of the chosen issue areas. Experts in those fields presented position papers in each workshop, and these position papers were then discussed and debated by a panel and by the delegates attending the workshops. Each workshop submitted recommendations to the full Conference at the end of the day. These recommendations are included as part of this summary.

Commissioner Marcus welcomed the delegates on the morning of November 23, 1981, in Sprague Hall on the campus of Yale University. Because Governor O'Neill was hospitalized after suffering a mild heart attack three days earlier, his remarks were delivered to the Conference by Lieutenant Governor Joseph J. Fauliso. Denise T. Davidoff, President of Shailer Davidoff Rogers, Inc., presented the results of the survey which has been commissioned to detemine the public's perception of children's issues. Albert J. Solnit, M.D., Sterling Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at Yale University School of Medicine and Director of the Yale Child Study Center delivered his address entitled, "Who Will Mind Our Children?" Delegates then split up into the seven workshops. The position papers delivered at each of the workshops were:

CHILD WELFARE - "The Prevention of Risk, Abuse and Neglect of Children" delivered by the Reverend John D. Swanson, Rector of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Norwich and the founder and coordinator of the statewide foster parent training program; and "Primary Prevention as a Component of Child Welfare Services" delivered by David L. Snow, Ph.D., Director of the Consultation Center and Associate Professor of Psychology in Psychiatry and the Child Study Center at Yale University School of Medicine.

EDUCATION - "Educating Connecticut's Children: A Shared Responsibility -- Images and Decision-Making" delivered by George Springer, President of the Connecticut State Federation of Teachers and "Early Childhood Education in Connecticut: A Shared Responsibility," delivered by Frank Self, Ed.D., Assistant Professor in the Department of Child Study and Education at St. Joseph College and "Education and Connecticut's Children: A Shared Responsibilty," delivered by A. J. Pappanikou, Ed.D., Professor of Educational Psychology in the Department of Education at the University of Connecticut.

HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH- "A Challenge" delivered by Benjamin C. Berliner, M.D., director of the Waterbury Regional Department of Pediatrics and Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Connecticut and "Protecting the Mental Health of Children, Everybody's Shared Responsibility," delivered by Carlos Salguero, M.D., President of the Connecticut Council for Child Psychiatry and Assistant Professor of Pediatric Psychiatry at Yale University Child Study Center, New Haven, Connecticut.

HOUSING WORKSHOP - "Connecticut's Children: A Shared Responsibility -- A Look at Yankee Mac," delivered by The Honorable Henry E. Parker, Treasurer of the State of Connecticut and "Housing As A Preventive Service," delivered by Ruth G. Price, Senior Planning Analyst for the Connecticut Department of Housing and "Bootstraps: How Suburbs Can Share in Housing the Homeless," delivered by Matthew S. Vittucci, Social Technologist and Director of the Bootstraps program at Saugatuck Congreational Church in Westport, Connecticut, and "History of Housing," delivered by Rochelle Ripley, Community Service Representative for AFL-CIO.

JUSTICE - "The Juvenile Justice System: Issues for the 80's," delivered by Shirley R. Bysiewicz, J.D., Professor of Law at the University of Connecticut School of Law and "The Juvenile Offender and the Requirements of Democratic Justice," delivered by Joseph E. Hickey, Ed.D., Associate Professor at the School of Criminal Justice, University of New Haven.

WORKING FAMILES - "Reclaiming the Lost Labor Pool -- The Case for Child Care Support in the Workplace," delivered by Susan Bucknell, Executive Director of the Connecticut Permanent Commission on the Status of Women and "Alternative Work Schedules -- Options That Benefit Families and Employer," delivered by Flora Parisky, Urban Policy Consultant.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING - "Youth Employment and Training, The Role of the Connecticut Department of Labor," delivered by John A. McCarthy, Executive Assistant, the Connecticut Department of Labor and "Employment/Training," delivered by Francis E. Phillips, Machining Manager, Hamilton Standard

Division of United Technologies Corporations and "Youth Employment and Training," delivered by Laurie Lopez-McNulty, Training Specialist with the United Labor Agency.

The Keynote Presentation was delivered at the luncheon by James Tobin, Sterling Professor of Economics at Yale University and the 1981 Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences. His address was entitled, "Current Economic Policy and the New Federalism." During the luncheon, chamber music was provided by children of the Education Center for the Arts Musicians. Art displays were exhibited in The Commons dining Hall contributed by the Education Center for the Arts, Creative Arts Workshop, Center for Theatre Techniques/Conte Arts Center Magnet, and Orange Public Schools. Also on display were letters written by children to the President -- a project sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, entitled, "Dear Mr. President ...The Children Are Speaking, Too!" About 600 letters were displayed. Following the luncheon, music, drama and dance programs were offered during "The Children's Hour," The Education Center for the Arts students, The New Haven Suzuki Violin School students and students from the American School for the Deaf.

The workshops reconvened and participants compiled a list of recommendations for presentations to the entire Conference delegation following dinner. During the social hour jazz music was supplied by a quartet from the Artistic Collective Quadrangle of the University of Hartford, Hartt College of Music, African/American Music Department.

D I S T R I C T O F C O L U M B I A

MAYOR MARION S. BARRY, JR.

CONTACT PERSON: Mr. James A. Buford, Director
Department of Human Services
801 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

TITLE: "A New World for Children and Youth - Challenges for the 1980's"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference, Resource fair.

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Child Care, Education, Legal Systems, Health/ Nutrition, Social Services, Recreation/Leisure Activities, Economic/Employment.

Recommendations: Yes - extensive

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CONFERENCE BACKGROUND

The first District of Columbia Conference on Children and Youth was held December 9 and 10, 1981 at Howard University. The conference, partially financed through a grant from the Office of Human Development Services of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, attracted over 700 participants. The Department of Human Services, (DHS), under the leadership of its Director, James A. Buford, was the District Government agency designated to faciliate conference implementation and develop the final report. DHS contracted with the Washington Metropolitan Affiliate of the National Black Child Development Institute to assist in completing these tasks. The conference theme was "A New World for Children and Youth; Challenges for the 1980's." Its three major purposes were:

* To enlighten the particpants on the various types of family structures in the District and the services and resources available to assist them in meeting the needs of their children.

* To make the community more aware of how the District government can assist families in dealing with certain problems, and serve as the focal point for coordinating the efforts of the private sector.

* To develop alternatives for private, volunteer, and public sector involvement in planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating services and programs which support and strengthen families with children and youth in the areas of Child Care, Education, Legal Systems, Health/Nutrition, Social Services, Recreation/Leisure Activities, and Economic/Employment.

James A. Buford, Director of the Department of Human Services, highlighted the status of the 144,000 children in the District, most of whom are served by the two Commissions of Social Services and Public Health.

CONFERENCE COMPONENTS

Eight major activities comprised this landmark conference.

A. Children and Youth Services and Resources Fair

B. Opening General Session

This session featured presentations by Mayor Marion S. Barry, Jr., and Department of Human Services Director, James A. Buford. Mayor Barry set the tone for the conference by challenging the particpants to build a public-private sector partnership that would result in effective and efficient services for District of Columbia children, youth, and their families. He stated that, "We must provide adequate and proper child care, education, health and nutrition, justice, recreation/leisure, social service, and economic development." He continued by indicating a priority focused on shaping public policy in an environment that ensures economic, social, physical, and spritual well-being for today and or future generations of children and youth. The Mayor closed his presentation with two broad questions which cut across the seven conference topics.

1. How can we make sure that families are economically able to fill their role?

2. What can be done with family problems in a manner that preserves the family as a support system?

C. Issue Panels

D. Youth Speakout Panel

E. Luncheon Roundtable Discussions

F. Keynote Speaker

Marion Wright Edelman, President of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), was the keynote speaker. She reviewed the new national policy of the current Administration and its potential impact on education, nutrition, housing, health care, social services, economic well-being, and the hope of the nation's poorest families. Mrs. Edleman also reviewed the positive benefits of programs such as Head Start and Title I and outlined several strategies proposed by her organization which she encouraged conference attendees to particpate. These strategies include:

1. Making available a series of action kits to help state and local organizers minimize the impact of budget cuts and block grants;

2. Release of a comprehensive "Children's Defense Budget Analysis" of what the President's budget includes for families, children, the poor and minorities;

3. Providing child watch assessment kits to assist Child Watch Coalitions in monitoring the impact of reductions on children in thei communities;

4. Convening a National Strategy Conference for child advocates and other concerned citizens in Washington, D.C. during February, 1982; and

5. Planning a Children's Sabbath in June, 1982 to encourage religious congregations throughout the nation to focus on the needs of children.

G. Dialogue '82

H. Presentation of Recommendations

The closing session of the conference provided an opportunity for the ninety recommendations to be presented to the entire body. An overarching recommendation called for the establishment of an executive level, Office of Children and Youth Services responsible for coordination, annual publication of a children and youth services directory, publicity and ensuring youth participation during program development.

1. Child Care recommendations focused on conducting a District- wide child care needs asessment, closer coordination between public schools and other child care facilities, collaborative efforts with business and industry, publicity and increased opportunities for parent involvement.

2. Economics/Employment recommendations focused on increased opportunities for youth to develop work experience, preparation of youth for jobs of the future, increased private sector involvement and increased support for small business as a mechanism to increase youth employment options.

3. Education recommendations focused on the preparation of youth for life and employment experiences, promotion and academic excellence, a balancing of student rights and responsibilities, improved interactions among teachers, students, parents and the community, clarification of authority and responsibility within the public school system and among various levels of District government, improved experiences for secondary level, special education students, full utilization of public school property.

4. Health/Nutrition recommendations focused on expansion of various preventive programs, implementing health and nutrition educational programs in Spanish and English, developing a system for tracking alcohol and drug referrals and continued participation of community-based organizations in the provision of services.

5. Legal Systems and Juvenile Justice recommendations focused on developing alternative programs, monitoring the media's portrayal of juveniles, sharing resources and increasing operational efficiency of the programs.

6. Recreation/Leisure Time recommendations focused on the formation of a community advocacy group, increased positive publicity, certification of volunteers, expansion of successful programs, and increased coordination.

7. Social Services recommendations focused on enhancing the delivery of child welfare services, prevention of duplication, planning for future social service programs, utilization of volunteers, and developing effective communication and coordination of services between Hispanic and non-Hispanic social service agencies.

CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP

The Final Report includes some suggestions for implementation that would ensure the utilization of existing Departments, Commissions, and organizations to implement recommendations. A progress report in 1982 is also suggested.

F L O R I D A

GOVERNOR D. ROBERT GRAHAM

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TITLE: "Florida's Children - Growing Up in a Changing Society"

FORMAT: (1) Central Conference, (11) workshops.

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Day Care, Dependency/Child/Abuse/Neglect, Custody, Education, Economic Concerns, Housing, Health, Juvenile Justice, Peer Interaction, Mental Health, Children of Divorce.

Recommendations: Yes-extensive

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Florida Conference on Children and Youth, entitled "Florida's Children: Growing Up in a Changing Society", was held November 4-6, 1981 in Orlando, Florida. As a follow up to the Conference, the Governor's Office, in conjunction with the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, convened a Symposium on Children-at-Risk in the chambers of the Florida House of Representatives on January 11-12, 1982.

Approximately 500 people participated in the Florida Conference on Children and Youth. The Conference opened with a keynote address by Governor Bob Graham. Governor Graham identified some of the hallmarks of progress that Florida has made in children and youth programs during the past decade and challenged delegates to formulate recommendations for an agenda for the future that places greater emphasis on prevention of those events and occurrences which adversely affect the development of our young people.

The Conference was structured around eleven workshop issues: Day Care, Dependency/Child Abuse/Neglect/ Custody, Economic

Concerns/Housing, Education, Exceptional Children, Health, Juvenile Justice, Mental Health, Peer Interactions, Social and Environmental Influences, and Children of Divorce. Following is a brief discussion of the major issues and recommendations from each workshop.

DAY CARE

In 1974, Florida became the last of the fifty states to implement a state law requiring the licensure of child day care centers. Florida's day care legislation is scheduled for review in 1983 under the Sunset Law. With the federal deregulation of programs in block grants, Florida will need to establish appropriate standards to ensure that quality day care services are provided to children and their families. The recommendations from this workshop focus primarily on the need for minimum standards which provide protection for children, parents, operators and the community, and are enforced through viable sanctions for family day care homes, day care centers, and before and after school programs, including those programs which are currently exempted from licensure.

DEPENDENCY/CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT/CUSTODY

Responsibility for children without adequate parental care has historically been shared by voluntary agencies and state and local governments. Funding at the state, local and federal levels will have a direct impact on services for children and families in need. Spending priorities must be established in instances where the total need conflicts with available funding. The recommendations from this workshop focus on the need for Florida to provide a continuum of services for children and families at risk. Such services should emphasize the prevention of family dysfunction and ensure permanence, stability and protection for children.

ECONOMIC CONCERNS/HOUSING

Because of the lack of education, training and skills necessary to successfully compete in the labor market, income maintenance programs are the only alternatives for a significant segment of the population. The tightening of eligibility requirements for Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Medicaid and Food Stamps, and the rising cost of housing will have a definite impact on children and youth, as many families will lack the resources to provide for the basic necessities of life. The recommendations from this workshop center around the need for Florida to ensure the provision of the basic necessities of life for deprived children and their families, including: access to safe, decent and affordable housing; adequate financial assistance; adequate health care; and appropriate education and training to prepare young people for meaningful and productive employment.

EDUCATION

Parents have the primary responsibility for developing and protecting their children's values. Formal education and training in the school system are important in preparing young people for independence and adulthood; yet parental involvement is vital to its success. As the image of the traditional family vanishes, the educational system must modify its policies and programs to accomodate variety in family structures. The recommendations from this workshop center around the need to reevaluate school curriculums to ensure that they focus on the educational development of the individual toward productive citizenship and promote academic excellence; more parental and student involvement in the management of school districts; and the need to identify the assets and impact of secular humanism and the Judeo-Christian ethic. Three minority reports were submitted on the issues of: Secular Humanism vs. Judeo/Christian Ethic; Funding; and Curriculum Development.

MENTAL HEALTH

Improving mental health services for children and adolescents will require implementation of a core continuum of services statewide to provide prevention, diagnostic and evaluation services, crisis counseling, out-patient and day treatment services in addition to community-based therapeutic foster homes, residential psychiatric programs and state hospitalization services. Recommendations from this workshop call for lesgislative action to establish requirements and define the scope of a comprehensive continuum of mental health services which will encompass the special needs and service categories for target populations, which include: delinquent dependent, neglected and abused children; foster children; families in crisis; high risk populations; and substance abusers. The need to establish linkages between mental health providers and others involved in the care and treatment of children, and adquate funding for services is also addressed. Two minority reports were submitted dealing with prevention and a broader representation of mental health issues and concerns.

PEER INTERACTIONS

Quality recreation programming enhances the quality of life and may prevent boredom and subsequent negative behavior. While it is recognized that appropriate structured recreation programs are needed, the general public remains uninformed about the constructive use of leisure time through recreation. Adequate programs will become available only if public education and adequate funding are provided. Programs are also needed to curb the incidences of teenage pregnancies and substance abuse. The recommendations from this workshop center on the need to provide appropriate education programs and services to deal with the problems of adolescent pregnancies and substance abuse, and more

opportunities for youth to become involved in activities which provide a positive influence for peers. Two minority reports were submitted calling for an investigation into the positive use of peer interaction and opposing mandatory sex and drug education courses in schools.

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCES

This workshop dealt with issues such as racism, discrimination, prejudice, crimes against children, media influence, air, water, and noise pollution, and the impact of these factors on Florida's children and youth. The recommendations from this workshop focus on the need for legislation to facilitate the investigation of missing children cases in a timely manner; funds to provide safe lodging for runaways; amelioration of problems faced by refugees and entrants; eradication.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

As we look at the decade ahead, several issues need to be addressed to improve the quality of life for children with exceptionalities. Among these are: prevention of handicapping conditions; pre-school education; interagency cooperation; health care; financial and human resources; expanded resources; expanded public information; and parental involvement. The recommendations from this workshop focus on the need to improve coordination among service providers; resolve conflicts in state agencies' regulations concerning discipline of exceptional children in educational programs; increased funding for exceptional student education; mandatory education programs for exceptional persons, ages 3 to 5 and 18 to 21; training in exceptionalities and resources for medical providers; inclusion of family life educaton courses in public school curriculums; and the provision of recreational and socialization opportunities for exceptional children.

HEALTH

Safeguarding the health and well-being of Flordia's children and youth is an investment in Florida's future. This can best be insured through the provision of affordable and accessible comprehensive health care services which treat children and their families in a holistic manner. The recommendations from this workshop center around the need to ensure the accessibility of primary health care services for all children and youth; services for pregnant teenagers; substance abuse education; comprehensive health education in public schools for grades K-12; improve sports medicine; and passage of child passenger safety legislation.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Since 1967, Florida has progressed from having one of the worst juvenile justice systems in the country to a system which is now recognized as being one of the best. Florida is the only state to have developed a juvenile justice system in which all elements are organized together as a integrated whole under state direction. This includes intake; detention; community control; commitment programs, comprising an array of community-based services; as well as training schools and aftercare programs. Given the poor shape of the juvenile justice system nationally, Florida's system is not as distinguished an accomplishment as might otherwise appear. The recommendations from this workshop focus on the need for the state, federal and local governments to make delinquency prevention the number one priority for the next ten years, and provide sufficient funding to accomplish this task.

CHILDREN OF DIVORCE

Children whose parents are divorcees - or are in the process of getting divorced - have a lot to say and, so far, we have been turning deaf ears on them. The legal, educational, religious, and family systems have not paid attention to how children feel as a result of their parents' divorce. In Florida, the legal system is detrimental to children of divorce and to their parents. Instead of encouraging parents to cooperate, the legal system encourages parents to fight over their children. There is no statutory provision for mediation as an alternative to the present exclusive adversary system - a system which may be useful in criminal or personal injury cases, but is harmful for restructuring families.

The recommendations from this workshop call for the revision of current custody laws which recognizes sole custody/ visitation as the only parenting method after divorce, and more programs to promote healthy parenting after divorce and provide a forum where children can be heard.

The final session of the Conference included a report from each workshop and closing remarks by David Pingree, Secretary of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services. Mr. Pingree spoke of specific challenges tha Florida must face in the 80's for children and youth and called for increased interagency cooperation and citizen involvement to meet these challenges.

The Symposium of Children-at-Risk was an extremely beneficial activity in our follow through to the recommendations of the Conference. Approximately 100 people from various interests regarding children-at-risk attended the Symposium. Plenary sessions were held on dependency services and mental health services to children-at-risk.

G E O R G I A

GOVERNOR GEORGE BUSBEE

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Division of Human Development
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TITLE: "Making a Difference in the Life of a Child Through Communities Committment to the Well Being of their Children"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference, (40) workshops

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Health, Education, Family Life, Role of Business/Industry/Schools/Churches/Individuals/ Communities.

Recommendations: Yes - extensive

Model Programs: Yes (See Appendix B)

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

On April 23, 1981, Secretary of Health and Human Services Schweiker corresponded with all state governors concerning the White House Conference on Children and Youth. He announced that in the future this conference would be implemented through conferences voluntarily convened by the states, rather than through the selection of state delegates to a National White House Conference. States choosing to hold a conference were able to apply for federal funding before June 5, 1981. The State of Georgia applied for and received funding to hold a state conference on children and youth.

Governor Busbee asked the Georgia Department of Human Services to assume the major responsibility for planning and implementing the conference. Department of Human Resources Commissioner Dr. Joe Edwards in turn requested that the Division of Human Development under the direction of Marjorie H. Young, take the lead in planning and implementing the conference in conjunction with representatives from all Department of Human Resources divisions

and the Georgia Department of Education. Mrs. Marjorie Young, Director of the Division of Human Development asked her Deputy Director, Mr. Randy Oven, to act as the administrative director overseeing all conference activities.

Initial conference planning began in July, 1981, with the formation of Task Force composed of representatives from all divisions of Department of Human Resources and the Department of Education. The Task Force began their work by addressing major items such as the identification of conference issues and format. It was determined that a portion of the Federal funds would be set aside to hire a Conference Manager and support staff through requests for bid proposals. Several bid proposals were received and the contract was awarded to Georgia State University with a contract period of August 17, 1981, to January 15, 1982.

In recognition of the political climate of the 1980's, the concept of the "new federalism", and the reduction of federal funds, it was determined that this conference would represent a rather unique experience, somewhat different from similar conferences held in the past. There were to be no position papers developed, no resolutions passed, and no delegates selected. Instead, the conference was to be oriented towards emphasizing the partnership between the public and private sectors.

In an effort to solidify this commitment, the conference theme chosen was "Making a Difference in the Life of a Child Through Communities Committed to the Well Being of Their Children". The three desired outcomes developed to assist in the conference planning were:

1. Increased understanding of the needs and problems of children and youth and how to share this information
2. Increased skill and commitment in becoming more effectively involved in aiding children in their own communities
3. Increased understanding of the need and value of the promotion of health and prevention strategies for children.

As a method of involving various state and local agencies and organizations, the Task Force identified approximately 300 groups to be invited to a general planning session held on August 25, 1981. Approximately 72 individuals representing various groups and agencies attended this general planning session. These individuals were divided into several sbucommittees who began meeting weekly to develop the conference format. It was determined that the conference theme and outcomes were to be implemented through an array of informational and skill development workshops in which the role of business and industry, schools, churches, individuals, and communities contributing to the improvement of the health, education, and family life of children

was explored. It was the hope of the conference planners that conference participants would leave the conference with increased knowledge, improved skills and a stronger commitment to making their communities responsive to the needs of children and youth.

CONFERENCE FORMAT

The conference was held November 30 and December 1, 1981 at the World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia. The program consisted of a general session lasting until noon on November 30, followed by workshop sessions scheduled for the remainder of the two day session. The conference closed with another general session during which the Keynote Address was given.

The numerous individuals working on the conference program design determined that two major concepts should be considered when developing programs to meet conference outcomes. First it was felt that a strategy needed to be developed to insure that participants acquire and refine their skills and procedures needed to become actively involved in their local communities. As a result, Skill Development Workshops were to be offered in three areas: Basic Skill Development and the methodologies necessary for effective community involvement, Fund Raising/ Resources Development strategies to expand the use of local resources, and Local Interagency Coordination Committees methodologies to assist children with special needs. Second, considerable discussion by the planning committees led to the decision to develop subject matter workshops around the three major areas of health, education, and family life. A subject matter matrix was developed addressing these three areas through institutions of business and industry, churches, schools, and by the individuals and the community. To prepare conference participants in these areas, the opening general session included these key presentations addressing health, education, and family life. The finalized format for the Subject Matter Workshops included 40 separate workshops to be offered to meet the diversified needs and interests of those in attendance. All workshop speakers, panelists, etc. were state citizens selected for their expertise and active involvement in their area of specialization.

ATTENDANCE

Initial conference planning centered around a potential audience of approximately 800. Final records indicate a very well attended conference with 1,032 individuals registered for the conference. These individuals represented families, private organizations, voluntary agencies, representatives from state and local government, and private citizens from more than 75 cities and 65 counties throughtout Georgia.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS, PROGRESS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Salient concerns of both conference participants and conference speakers, were, for the most part, identical. As Commissioner Edwards said, "Children deserve the opportunity to grow up in an environment where they can develop their full potential and become healthy, productive citizens. Unfortunately, in Georgia there are many children who do not have this opportunity."

Recent trends and statistics show:

1. That in 1980, 1 in 5 Georgians lived at an income level below the poverty line. One-third of those in poverty were children under 18.
2. In March 1981, the yearly salary of manufacturing workers in Georgia was approximately $13,000/year.
3. From 1970-76, Georgia had an increase of 43.4% in the number of female headed households.
4. Almost 3 out of 5 Georgia's poor children live in female headed households.
5. In 1979, the median income of female headed households was $8,450, about one-half of the national media for all families.
6. Only 27% of children and adolescents in Georgia who need help with mental and emotional problems receive that help.
7. Fiscal 1981 showed over 20,000 reports of child abuse and neglect.
8. Last year over 30,000 cases involving delinquent and unruly children were filed in Georgia Juvenile Courts.
9. One out of every 6 girls becomes pregnant before the age of 18.
10. As of 1977, 42% of Georgia 8th graders showed a serious deficiency in reading and 33% of Georgia 4th graders read at least one grade level behind their peers.

Additional courses related to both these specific statistics and the quality of services in general were raised frequently in the various workshops sessions. Some of the major concerns voiced by participants included:

1. How to involve elected officials and influence citizens in program development.
2. How to provide direct services to children through volunteer groups and systems.
3. How to utilize informal organizations to coordinate children's services.
4. How to use planning processes as a tool for child advocacy and program planning.
5. How to utilize statewide networking to focus attention on children's issues.
6. How to address unmet needs of children in light of recent federal cutbacks.

7. How to continue improvement in education, employment, health, and social service programs.
8. How to motivate students to take interest in their educational endeavors.
9. How to better equip schools to handle social problems the students bring with them.

The stark realities of diminishing federal funds are now here and would appear to be permanent fixtures in any future planning. As a result, conference participants set about discussing viable alternatives and realistic solutions that need to be considered if continued progress is to be made in providing for our children. As Governor Busbee said, "Although the immediate financial future for government programs is bleak, there is still much that can be done to streamline our services and improve our techniques. Continuing to match the progress of the 70's in the absence of major funding increases is the challenge for the 80's. I ask you to accept this challenge. The future of Georgia depends on her children and the future of Georgia's children depends on you."

A good deal of progress was made in terms of general discussion sessions and the development of realistic recommendations for future action. In addition, the sharing of information and resource materials resulted in the identification of several Georgia programs that are successful due to alternative and imaginative use of fiscal and human resources. Successful Georgia programs where community development was a major operational component offered the following strategies:

1. Small groups of interested citizens are often as effective as formal organizations as a strategy for improving services to children.
2. Community involvement groups must often concentrate effort on projects which are feasible rather than those most needed in order to insure success.
3. Major projects which involve fund raising and extensive program development are possible if community involvement can be maintained over an extended period of time.
4. Short range task and objective oriented activities are good motivators for voluteers.
5. Involving citizens and business people is critical in developing viable community resource development.
6. Present well designed and realistic programs to business for funding consideration.

EVALUATION

In an effort to ascertain the success of the 1981 Georgia Conference on Children and Youth and to determine if expectations of individual participants were met, a twenty item evaluation form was designed and disseminated to everyone in attendance. Returned evaluation forms numbered 207, representing a 20%

return from all conference participants. This percentage represented a large enough return to draw objective conclusions concerning the success of the conference in meeting its goals.

Individual evaluation items completed by the participants indicated that: the conference was well designed, the speakers were well prepared, and that the presentations were of a high caliber.

Evaluation results concerning the Skill Development Workshops and the various Subject Matter Workshops were also exceptionally positive in determining that the materials presented were timely, well developed, and extremely informative.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

A great deal of time, effort, and thought went into the planning of the 1981 Georgia Conference on Children and Youth. The individuals involved in planning this first state conference devoted entirely to children and youth, attempted to identify and incorporate programs and material that would prove useful to the citizens of Georgia.

In an effort to assist individuals and groups to come to grips with these impending fiscal realities, the conference was planned as an educational and informational program where agencies, groups, and individual private citizens could come together to share and exchange ideas, information, and support. The exceptionally large attendance and overwhelmingly positive evaluation results would indicate that the 1981 Georgia Conference on Children and Youth was successful in planning and offering a timely and pertinent program.

H A W A I I

GOVERNOR GEORGE R. ARIYOSHI

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Office of Children and Youth
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TITLE: "Hawaii in the Eighties - Decade for Youth and Families"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference, (11) workshops; County and city survey; Forums

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Child Abuse and Neglect, Adoption and Emergency Services, "Special Children", Child Care, Recreation, Sex Education, Family Relations, Crime, Substance Abuse, Stress, Career Planning.

Recommendations: Yes - extensive

Model Programs: No

Survey: Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With a renewed commitment to the children and youth of Hawaii in accordance with the proclamation "Hawaii in the Eighties: Decade of Youth and Families," the Honorable George R. Ariyoshi, Governor of the State of Hawaii, called to order on September 21, 1981, at the State Capitol the Governor's Hawaii State White House Conference on Children and Youth.

In Hawaii, the primary goal of this conference was to obtain a cross-representative examination of issues identified as significant to the children and youth in the State of Hawaii, from birth to age 24, and to relate the concerns and recommendations into possible program and policy strategies by governmental and non-governmental entities over the next ten years.

Unlike other previous conferences on children and youth, the 1981 state conference in Hawaii was unique in that much preliminary effort went into the issues and recommendatons that were discussed at seven workshops. This effort was spearheaded as early as November of 1980 by the state Office of Children and Youth and the Governor's Advisory Council for Children and Youth.

Through the Leadership and Implementation Committee, which included all county representatives from the Advisory Council, planning for the county activities began with each mayor's cooperation. Each county was then given the opportunity to develop their own activity with state funds, with basic outcome objectives agreed upon in advance by all parties in order to maintain continuity in theme and involvement. As a result, forums were held in the Counties of Maui, Kauai and Hawaii and a survey was conducted by the City and County of Honolulu.

After all counties submitted their respective reports to the Office of Children and Youth, a special state committee reviewed the findings, identified the most critical and signifcant issues, and prepared a digest of county opinions on issues, policies and program recommendations. These opinions were further developed and summarized as well as reexamined for appropriate attention at local, state and national levels. The resultant first draft of identified issues and recommendations then served as the base for discussion for 100 statewide delegates attending the day-long conference in September 1981, together with 150 invited guests, observers and resource persons.

Seven workshops were conducted during this conference:

1. "Children in Crises" - child abuse and neglect;
2. "Making Things Right" -temporarily placed minors, adoption and comprehensive emergency services;
3. "Our Special Children" - the handicapped, alienated and dropouts, immigrants and minorities, the gifted and talented;
4. "Caring for Our Children" - affordable quality child care from birth to age 12;
5. "Thinking Positive" - leisure activities, sex education and family relations;
6. "Straight Can Be Great" - vandalism and violence, alcohol and drug abuse, and coping with stress;
7. "Career Planning: Preparing for the Future" - career exploration and development for students.

Based on the workshop recomendations of the Governor's Hawaii State White House Conference on Children and Youth, the county reports and other past reports and conferences with bearing interests, and the additional findings and analyses of the Issues Committee and the Office of Children and Youth, the following seems clearly to be the most critical and immediate concerns regarding children and youth in the State of Hawaii from birth to age 24:

1. CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Recommendation 1-A: The State should continue to take the lead to insure the health and safety of all minors and to allocate sufficient resources to detect and protect minors

from abuse and neglect, also recognizing that the child's troubled family needs assistance to alleviate the causes of family stress, violence and crisis.

Recommendation 1-B: The problem of children in crisis must be addressed with an equally committed effort by the community.

2. SHELTER PLACEMENT RESOURCES AND FOSTER CARE

Recommendation II: A comprehensive network of community-based shelter facilities should be established in order to maintain suitable emergency or temporary placement of youth in need of protection and other necessary supportive and treatment programs.

3. ADOPTION OF MINORS

Recommendation III: Suitable alternative family environments should be afforded minors through the identification of temporary placed minors who may be available for adoption and through expedition of the adoption process.

4. EMANCIPATION OF MINORS

Recommendation IV: There should be an examination of all laws relating to the emancipation of minors to determine the justification and feasibility of emancipation, if in the best interests of the community and all affected minors.

5. Recommendation V: A network of comprehensive emergency services for families in crisis situations should be established within the community to provide for basic survival needs, including health care, protection and safety, shelter, food and clothing.

6. HANDICAPPPED CHILDREN

Recommendation VI: A comprehensive and integrated network of public, private and community resources of funds, services, facilities and other requirements must be established in order to adequately address the unique physical, emotional, social, educational, mental psychological and medical needs of our special children in Hawaii.

7. ALIENTED YOUTH AND SCHOOL DROPOUTS

Recommendation VII: More responsive programs are needed to better meet the needs of the alientated and the dropout, including viable socio-educational programs as an option to in-school programs by the state Department of Education.

8. IMMIGRANT AND MINORITY STUDENTS

Recommendation VIII: The state and the community should work cooperatively to address the special needs of immigrant and minority students and to promote greater cultural awareness and understanding among all youth.

9. GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN

Recommendation IX: A more earnest effort must be made towards recognizing and meeting the needs of gifted and talented children in our schools.

10. CHILD CARE SERVICES

Recommendation X-A: Affordable quality child care services that can accommodate the various cultural, social and economic situation of families in Hawaii should be available to all who require them.

Recommendation X-B: A collaboration of community, private and public efforts and resources is essential to meeting the demand for quality child care services in Hawaii.

11. PARENTING AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

Recommendation XI: Early parenting awareness and education should be provided as an integral element in a program of proper and effective child care.

12. LEISURE AND RECREATION

Recommendation XII: More constructive leisure activities and programs should be readily available on sites where youth normally congregate, with special attention to school sites for after-school activities.

13. SEX EDUCATION

Recommendation XIII: Sex education programs should be more sound in nature in order for youth to develop a better understanding of their sexuality and sexual responsibility

14. FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

Recommendation XIV: Instruction in intra-family relations and communication is needed to help youth cope with family problems and prepare themselves to become effective family members and effective parents.

15. VANDALISM AND VIOLENCE

Recommendation XV: The critical problem of school vandalism and violence should be among the highest priority concerns of the Department of Education and the community at-large.

16. ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

Recommendation XVI: The cooperative effort of appropriate public, private and community resources is essential for an effective prevention and treatment program for youth on the subject of alcohol and drug abuse.

17. PERSONAL GUIDANCE

Recommendation XVII: Greater sensitivity to the stresses faced by youth is necessary as a first step in fostering positive social behavior.

18. CAREER PREPARATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Recommendation XVIII-A: The State of Hawaii should increase its resource allocations to promote employability of youth and should adopt a state policy to increase work opportunities for youth.

Recommendation XVIII-B: A more effective and coordinated system between public, private profit and private non-profit entities in providing ongoing counseling, guidance and information for students is essential to facilitating a productive transition from school to work.

Recommendation XVIII-C: The state, business and labor communities and other groups should work in concert towards diversifying and increasing employment opportunities for youth.

Recommendation XVIII-D: Particular attention must be given to youth with special needs so that they too are prepared to obtain and maintain suitable jobs after graduation.

19. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation XIX-A: The state Office of Children and Youth should continue developing its system of basic data and information storage, retrieval, analysis and dissemination of child, youth and related family information.

Recommendation XIX-B: The Office of Children and Youth encourages efforts to promote automotive safety for infants and children under the age of 14 in the State of Hawaii.

It should be noted that these issues and recommendations are not listed in order of priority but are basically patterned after the organization of the Issues and Recommendations Paper that was taken up at the state conference workshops. Each major recommendation listed is accompanied by a narrative summary that includes a basic situation statement and, in most instances, some specific proposals for implementation in a separate chapter of the State of Hawaii's report on the Governor's Hawaii State White House Conference on Children and Youth, as submitted to the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services in compliance with the conditions set forth for use of the special grant that funded in part the convening of the Hawaii state conference.

The conference workshop findings and the supplemental research recommendations of the Isues Committee based on the four individual county reports, are contained in the document that was transmitted to the Federal administration by Governor Ariyoshi, who will also transmit copies to the Hawaii State Legislature, the Hawaii Congressional delegation, the mayors and councils of the four counties in the state, as well as all interested local government agencies and concerned groups.

The entire process of study, research and discussion involved thousands of individuals, as well as members of the consumer target group itself of children and youth in the State of Hawaii, at both the county and state levels. This kind of grassroots mobilization and involvement of representatives of virtually all affected agencies and organizations, both public and private, proved to be as equally significant and enlightening as the final conclusions which are contained in the complete Hawaii report.

The stage is now set for implementation of the recommendations provided by this community input, and the information within the entire report should facilitate effective strategies and actions, both immediate and long-range, on how to enhance and strengthen the quality of life for all of Hawaii's beloved children and youth.

I D A H O

GOVERNOR JOHN V. EVANS

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TITLE: "Governor's Conference on Children and Youth"

FORMAT: (3) Regional conferences; Opinion poll

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Education, Foster Care, Child Abuse, Substance Abuse, Juvenile Justice

Recommendations: No

Model Programs: No

Survey: Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In Idaho, three Conferences on Children and Youth were held. The conferences were held at Boise (Central Idaho), Pocatello (Southern Idaho) and Moscow (Northern Idaho). These regional conferences assured a broader base of paticipation by rural parents and service delivery personnel. These conferences also provided a follow-up to the 1977 Conference on Children.

Each regional conference was planned around one or more of the following topics: the future of education in our state, foster care, child abuse, substance abuse and prevention of juvenile delinquency.

A planning committee was appointed by the Governor in each region and was composed of representatives from most of the following groups: school personnel, school boards, parent-teacher organizations, substance abuse, child abuse, the Idaho Youth Commission, the private sector, foster parents, the Idaho State Legislature and the media.

The regional planning groups planned the logistics of the conferences and decided which of the many children and youth issues they would emphasize. This promoted local ownership of the conference and also ensured that local priorities were addressed.

Prior to the regional meeting, a public opinion survey was conducted to determine the population's perception of youth problems in the state. The results of this survey were distributed at the conference and were used as a basic of discussion at the regional level. The final report of the proceedings of the conference is being published at this time.

The date and specific locations of each conference was as follows:

November 2, 1981	Boise State University Boise, Idaho
November 29-30, 1981	University of Idaho Moscow, Idaho
December 9-10, 1981	Idaho State University Pocatello, Idaho

Invitations and notice of the regional meetings were sent to groups involved in services to youth and to citizens who have demonstrated a special interest in the problems associated with children and youth, such as Health and Welfare professionals, judges, probation officers, parent-teacher organizations, school boards, legislators, advisory boards, local elected officals, youth foundations and other professional organizations. Public Service announcements were aired over radios for the purpose of informing parents and youth throughout the state. Newspaper advertising was also donated or purchased.

Attendance at these conferences ranged from 150 to 350 with the total attendance over 800. In addition, about 800 Idaho households were polled through the survey. The Idaho Conference on Children and Youth received input either through the survey or attendance from over 1600 Idaho citizens.

The conferences tended to reflect the findings of the survey which, generally speaking, indicated that the citizens of Idaho are concerned about children and youth and the services offered them. Idaho citizens maintaining or increasing funding for children-oriented programs more than they support general funding for such things as water and sewers, public highways, etc.

A majority of Idahoans support increased funding for public schools, handicapped, and several youth programs such as drug and alcohol services, child abuse programs, and programs for mentally and physically handicapped youth. With the possible exception of bilingual education, Idahoans support maintaining other youth programs at current levels of funding.

Many recommendations were voiced. Idaho, like many other states, is suffering the impact of the national economic downturn. Most recommendations were couched in concerns about the New Federalism and concerns about what impact these policies would have. How-

ever, it became evident that communities must become more active in dealing with the problems confronting children and youth at the local level. All conferences concluded that increased emphasis on advocacy and self-help community organizations would be extremely important. Equally important is the emphasis on a quality school system. Most of the other recommendations provided better services to youth by changing state laws emphasizing existing programs and maintaining most of the other youth-oriented programs.

A special area of interest for which Idaho and the federal government seem woefully unprepared to address is sexual abuse of children.

In summary, the citizens are committed to the future of their children. The professionals and citizens who have a special interest in children and youth see children's programs under siege and are responding by organizing at the community level to extract maximal use of the revenue and resources available to them.

I L L I N O I S

GOVERNOR JAMES R. THOMPSON

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TITLE: "Children's Priorities for the '80's"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference, (7) workshops; (4) Regional conferences.

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Adolescence and Juvenile Justice, The Role of Families in Nurturing Children, Educational Services, Continuum of Health and Human Services.

Recommendations: Yes - extensive

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Governor Thompson appointed an oversight committee composed of Nancy Silvers, of the Governor's Office, Gregory Coler, Director of the Department of Children and Family Services, and Helen Welgie, Chairperson of the Commission on Children to approve the final proposal and budget of the conference which was submitted by the Commission on Children. The Governor named Mrs. Helen Welgie and Mrs. Betty Williams as co-chairpersons of the Illinois Conference on Children's Priorities for the '80's. Four regional committees were then formed with former delegates from regional committees of the 1980 Illinois White House Conference on Children and members of the Department of Children and Family Services Advisory Council. Their job was to design a regional conference that would fit their area's needs. A State Steering Committee was formed to plan the format for the state conference, composed of the four chairpersons of the regional planning committees, the two co-chairpersons and 3 citizens.

To insure consistency among the regional conferences on Children's Priorities for the '80's the voting procedures were the same for each conference:

The delegates at the regional conferences were to vote for 16 of the 54 recommendations in order to prioritize the issues, delegates weighed the votes, giving the number 16 to their first selection and 15 as the second selection and so on to number 1.

Up to six write in issues could be added by delegates when voting on 16 priorities. The state ballot was made up of the top 16 issues from each of the four regions.

The selection of speakers and arrangement of the conference schedules were decided by the regional planning committees.

B. The regional delegate selection process was done by accepting one-half of the regional delegates on a first come, first served basis according to the return postmark on the application. The remaining one-half of the delegates were selected by the Regional Planning Committee of each region. There was a maximum of 400 delegates to the Northeast conference and 200 each to the Northwest, Central and Southern. The Southern conference was held on October 12 in Carbondale, the Northwest Conference was held on October 23 in LaSalle-Peru, the Central Conference was held on October 28 in Decatur, the Northeast Conference was held on November 6 in Chicago, and the State Conference was held on December 8 and 9 in Chicago.

The selection for state delegates was a three-fold process: one-third of the delegates were appointed by the Governor, one-third were appointed by the Statewide Steering Committee, and the remaining one-third were elected at each of the four conferences. The delegate selection process was designed to insure full representation by parents, professionals in the private and public sectors, citizens, youths, minorities, and disabled persons.

C. Since four regional conferences and one statewide conference were held, a wide variety of people were able to contribute as well as learn by participating in the conference. Over 800 delegates and approximately 300 observers learned from the approximately 90 speakers, facilitators, and resource persons who donated their time to aid in clarifying the report and to provide up-to-date informaton about the issue areas. In addition, two of the regional conferences and the state conference had keynote speakers who discussed the financial future of children's services federally and statewide. Two other regional conferences had luncheon speakers who emphasized the need for individual action to keep children's services in existence. The Honorable James R. Thompson, Governor, was the luncheon speaker for the state conference.

Approximately 200 volunteers assisted the staff of the Commission on Children by tallying votes, helping at the registration desk, acting as doorkeepers, operating tape equipment, etc.

The goals of the Illinois Conference on Children's Priorities for the '80's were to select 16 most important recommendations for the next ten years and to enlist delegates' support in implementing those priorities. The fifty-four issue areas on the ballot which were undertaken from the 1980 Report were:

ADOLESCENCE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE: 1. Youth development, 2. Prevention and support services, 3. Substance abuse, 4. Minors in need of supervision, 5. Diversion, 6. Detention, 7. Court procedures, 8. Probation services, training and community dispositions, 9. Corrections and chronic offenders, 10. Youth employment.

THE ROLE OF FAMILIES IN NURTURING CHILDREN: 11. Family impact, 12. Communication, 13. Public policy--tax benefits, 14. Employment and inflation, 15. Media, 16. Housing, 17. The need for family support services, 18. Supplemental child care (day care) 19. Children in need of protection, 20. Permanency planning , 21. Adolescent sexuality and teen parenting.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES: 22. Provide students with the educational skills necessary to function in society, 23. Satisfying human relationships, single living and the need to cope with change, 24. Parenting and enriching family relationships, 25. Children and the arts, 26. Education and the preservation of a democratic society, 27. Absenteeism and dropouts, 28. Personnel issues, 29. Violence and vadalism, 30. Discipline and procedures, 31. Student safety in athletics and transportation to athletics events, 32. Special education, 33. Gifted education, 34. Career and vocational eduation, 35. Bilingual education, 36. School financing, 37. Home, school and community relations, 38. Academic freedom.

CONTINUUM OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES: 39. Health education, 40. Nutrition, 41. Immunization, 42. Accident prevention, 43. Environmental health services, 44. Prenatal care, 45. Access to health services, 46. Mental health, 47. Dental health, 48. Societal attitudes, 49. Planning, 50. Coordination and cooperation, 51. Accountability, 52. Accessibility, 53. Manpower, 54. Funding.

Workshops on organizing community resources, working with the media, influencing public officials, and raising funds were offered at the regional conferences to assist the delegates to develop techniques for implementing the 16 recommendations. The state conference had an additional three workshops which focused on supporting programs, monitoring and evaluating programs, and participating in policy development. Delegates were asked to complete contracts (see appendix) as a way of gaining written commitments and learning the delegates' interest. The contract will be used as a data bank for agencies and organizations seeking volunteers.

D. The following items were chosen as a priority at the four regional conferences. The initial designates at which conference(s) the item was selected.

(S)-Southern, (NW)-Northwestern, (C)-Central, (NE)-Northeastern

ADOLESCENCE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

(NE)	(C)	(NW)	(S)	1.	Prevention and support services or adolescents
	(NE)	(C)	(S)	2.	Substance abuse (alcohol and drugs)
(NE)	(C)	(NW)	(S)	3.	Youth employment

THE ROLE OF FAMILIES IN NURTURING CHILDREN

	(NE)	(C)	(S)	4.	Adolescent sexuality and teen parenting
(NE)	(C)	(NW)	(S)	5.	Children in need of protection
	(NE)	(C)	(S)	6.	Supplemental child care (day care)
(NE)	(C)	(NW)	(S)	7.	The need for family support services
(NE)	(C)	(NW)	(S)	8.	Family impact
	(C)	(NW)	(S)	9.	Communications with the family
			(NW)	10.	Public policy--tax benefits

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

(NE)	(C)	(NW)	(S)	11.	Provide students with the educational skills necessary to function in society
(NE)	(C)	(NW)	(S)	12.	Parenting and enriching family relationships
		(NE)	(S)	13.	Special education
			(S)	14.	Home, school and community relations
			(NW)	15.	School financing
			(C)	16.	Career and vocational education

CONTINUUM OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

	(NE)	(C)	(S)	17.	Mental health
	(NE)	(C)	(S)	18.	Access to health services
(NE)	(C)	(NW)	(S)	19.	Nutrition
		(NE)	(C)	20.	Health education
			(NE)	21.	Pre-natal care

ADDITIONAL ISSUES

			(NW)	22.	Legal protection of human life from fertilization to natural death.
			(NW)	23.	Judeo-Christian values should replace humanistic philosophies in the schools
			(NW)	24.	Sex education only by parent consent

(NW) 25. The family is defined as a social group of persons related by blood, heterosexual marriage or adoption

(NW) 26. Governmental agencies should not nullify parental rights without a court order

The four regional conferences set the stage for the State Conference on December 8 and 9 at the Americana Congress Hotel, Chicago, Illinois. Over 300 people participated as delegates, speakers or observers to improve services for children. The state ballot reflected the 26 issues voted on at the regional level. Delegates were given the opportunity to add new issues to the ballot during discussion sessions on the first day. The top sixteen recommendatons that were selected at the state conference and will be emphasized for the next ten years are:

1. Provide students with the educational skills necessary to function in society
2. Prevention and support services for adolescents
3. The need for family support services
4. Access to health services
5. Children in need of protection
6. Supplemental child care (day care)
7. Youth employment
8. Health education
9. Adolescent sexuality and teen parenting
10. Parenting and enriching family relationships
11. Nutrition
12. Mental Health
13. Prenatal care
14. Substance abuse
15. Special education
16. School financing

The remaining items on the state ballot were ranked in the following order: 17. Career and vocational education 18. Home, school and community relations 20. Permanency planning. Policy and legislative support in Illinois is needed to implement PL 96-272 on a continuing basis, including protection for children and some citizen paticipation in monitoring the children in substitute care 21. Legal protection of human life from fertilization to natural death 22. Communication 23. Accessibility to a continuum of health and human services 24. Public policy--tax benefits 25. Judeo-Chrisitian values should replace humanistic philosophies in the schools 26. The family is defined as a social group of persons related by blood, heterosexual marriage or adoption 27. Available resources should be targeted to those children and families most in need (Tie) 27. Sex education only by parental consent 28. Government agencies should not nullify parental rights without a court order 29. Permanency planning as defined in 1980 Illinois White House Conference on Children 30.

Adoption services 31. Judeo-Christian values and ethics should be reinstated in education, to replace the atheistic humanistic philosophy presently permeating our eductional system 32. Discipline procedures page 108, 1980 White House Conference on Children Report.

E. Priorization of the recommendations paved the way for the third phase of conference activities--implementation. The Commision on Children will be reviewing the top 16 priorities at its upcoming meetings to determine how to best address these priorities. A report of the conference will be distributed to the delegates and others who request it. Also, the Commission will print the 16 priority recommendations in its newsletter, News and Views. The Commission plans to follow-up on the recommendations listed in the 1980 Illinois White House Conference on Children Report within the next ten years, but will focus on the top 16 priorities first. Study committees may be established where necessary to refine the recommendations so that they can be given to the legislature.

The delegates who completed a contract will receive a reminder of their commitments and be asked to give a report of what they have done thus far. Some of them may be called upon to fulfill their commitments by assisting statewide organizations and agencies.

The present goal is coordinating available resources to work toward creating new children's services and sustaining the existing programs as well as improving programs. The CONFERENCE was not the end, but the BEGINNING!

I N D I A N A

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TITLE: "Governor's White House Conference on Children and Youth"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference, (13) workshops

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Education, Employment, Health, Social Well-Being, Children and Youth in Jeopardy

Recommendations: Yes - extensive

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The State of Indiana gratefully received $49,493.00 in grant monies from the Department of Health and Human Services and accepted the challenge to host a statewide Conference on Children and Youth. Under the leadership of Governor Robert D. Orr, a steering comittee and one additional staff member, whose sole purpose was Conference management, were appointed in late August 1981. During the following months, the committee planned all facets of the Conference which was held on December 8th and 9th in Indianapolis.

There were 388 delegates, 95 of whom were youths between the ages of 15 and 21. Eighteen Conference facilitators hosted the meetings and organized 91 exhibits. Twenty three resource people lent their expertise in the issues discussed; six guest speakers shared inspiring messages and Governor Orr addressed the Conference on two occasions.

On the whole the Conference was most successful. It brought together individuals concerned with children and youth from various backgrounds, professions and locations throughout the state. The plans of action developed during the Conference (attached to this report) represent the priority concerns of probably the state's top advocates for children and youth. In some cases there were minority opinions and plans developed.

Undoubtedly, one of the strengths of this Conference was that it provided a forum for many diversified thoughts that were presented and accepted with respect and consideration. One hundred twenty organizations participated in Indiana's Conference exhibits by providing handouts, films, demonstrations and displays. The displays covered the four topic area categories addressed by the Conference: education, employability, health and social well-being, and provided information on issues not covered in the workgrcups.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Governor Orr appointed a steering committee of 43 individuals representing government, youth, the business community, education and the media. It was the committee's responsibility to plan and execute the entire two-day event. In so doing the steering committee broke into four subcommittees to address topics of discussion: education, employability, health and social well-being; children and youth in jeopardy; and three additional subcommittees to address physcial arrangements, publicity and evaluation.

TOPIC AREAS AND WORKGROUPS

The four main topic areas that were addressed in 13 separate workgroups and are outlined below.

Education: Developing a Cooperative Triad: Educators, Family, Business/Industry

1) Communication for our Children's Future: The Role of the Triad
2) The Care of Our Children: The Role of the Triad
3) Developing Marketable Skills: The Role of the Triad

Employability

4) Job Readiness
5) Job Development
6) Job Matching

Health

7) Health-Mental Health and Early Intervention
8) Creating and supporting Positive Children and Family Development
9) Sexual Awareness and Education

Social Well-being: Children and Youth in Jeopardy

10) Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
11) Drug and Substance Abuse
12) Physical, Emotional and Sexual Abuse
13) Foster Care and Adoption

The sub-committees secured facilitators, resource people and recorders for each workgroup. The sub-committees and facilitators narrowed the scope of the issues within each group and determined what issues were germane and nongermane to which workgroups. (Abortion and homosexuality were two controvesial issues that were balanced to be nongermane to the Conference.)

CONFERENCE FORMAT

Many steering committee members had been previously involved in White House conferences in which all delegates voted on resolutions but with little action or follow through on the resolutions. Therefore, the committee decided a management by objective approach would produce more concrete results. Each of the attached Plans of Action generated during the Conference has a goal, at least one objective and a plan which allocates resources for implementation. Each workgroup submitted to the topic area one priority plan upon which its delegates had agreed. The four topical areas were permitted to submit, in addition to their priority plans, two optional plans. Thus, there was potential for 21 plans of action resulting from the Conference. Enclosed with this report are 13 Priority Plans of Action, five Alternate Plans, five Minority Reports and one Statement of Purpose.

DELEGATE SELECTION

In planning this Conference the steering committee had three priorities with regard to delegates: there was an urgency to have 1) broad based statewide representation of individuals knowldgeable of issues confronting children and youth; 2) substantial youth representation and 3) representation from the general citizenenry.

To achieve these priorities, Governor Orr asked the mayors of 116 Indiana cities to appoint a representative of business and industry to attend the Conference. This input was vital for the discussion concerning youth unemployment and employability in the state. Thirty seven mayors responded. Each president of Indiana's 92 boards of county commissioners were asked by Governor Orr to appoint either a provider of children and youth services or an interested citizen or parent to attend. Thirty two commissioners responded. Some cities and counties paid the $30 registration fee for their delegates. Other delegates were responsible for their own fee.

In addition, the 150 state legislators were asked to appoint a youth from their constituency to be a delegate. The committee felt strongly that the youth should represent a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds and, therefore, their registration fees and hotel costs were paid for by the grant. Ninety seven legislators responded to the Governor's request and all but two

of these youths were able to attend the Conference. The four issue subcommittees of the steering committee each identified 50 individuals or organizations to be invited to attend as delegates. The Conference brochure was made available to the general citizenery through the public libraries. A limit of 650 delegates and a registration deadline were set. The delegate body was comprised of 388 individuals who preferenced the workgroup in which they wanted to participate. In all but a few cases the first choice was granted.

REGISTRATION FEES

A minimum fee of $30 was charged to all delegates except the youth. This fee included two luncheons, one dinner and all Conference materials. Actual cost, for the Conference only, was approximately $46 per delegate with the difference being paid by the grant. There were 293 paying delegates. All costs, including lodging when necessary, were paid for by the grant for the 184 youth, guest speakers, facilitators, resource people and steering committee members.

EVALUATION

The evaluation team consisted of four people, two from within the steering committee and two individuals who were not directly involved in Conference planning. Each was assigned one topic area to evaluate in terms of group dynamics, mood, perceptions of the participants and overall effectiveness of the Conference. Their findings show that the Conference was, indeed, a success as measured by the fact that many diverse points of view were presented and organized into concrete plans to solve some of the state's most pressing problems facing its children and youth. The fact that the state accepted the challenge to open the Conference to the public and that a strong youth component participated were also cited as strengths.

Participants were asked to complete an evaluation form with regard to fourteen areas. One hundred twenty three participants responded to the questionnaire. Fifty four percent of those responding felt the Conference was a good length, and 76% felt it represented a "positive experience" for them. Only seven percent of those responding disagreed. Eighty nine percent of the participants felt that the facilitators were "adequate" to "good" with only seven percent marking "poor." Four percent of the respondents had no opinion. Fifty seven percent thought the accomodations wre "adequate" to "good." Only 10% of those responding accomodations were "poor." It would appear that the majority of the participants responding to the questionnare felt the experience was worthwhile and enlightening for them.

Some participants felt that too many delegates had a "monetary vested interest" in the outcome of the Conference; others felt that there was a limited number of minorities represented. For the most part everyone benefited from the presentations of the featured speakers: Dorothy DeBolt, the mother of 14 adopted handicapped children, whom she refers to as "challenged" as well as six of her own, spoke at the evening dinner. Joe Sorrentino, a man who went from high school dropout and gang leader to Class Valedictorian at Harvard Law School, was a luncheon speaker. The Reverend Joe Wick who is a noticed Hoosier humorist and inspirationalist addressed the opening luncheon. Conference participants were awed by the sensitivity of Rick Little, from Findlay, Ohio, who is the founder of Quest, Inc. This program incorporates the teaching of the 4th "R," self respect and responsibility, into high school curriculum in many school corporations across the midwest.

FOLLOW UP

Generally, each plan of action calls for the creation of a local or statewide advisory body as a mechansim to provide for the coordination and improvement of the delivery of services to children and youth.

Upon the conclusion of the Conference, there seemed to be a genuine concern among delegates as well as the steering committee members that a commitment be made to follow through on the recommendations resulting from the Conference.

Consequently, Governor Orr is re-instating the steering comittee members, who wish to serve on a voluntary basic, to oversee appropriate follow through activities. An Ad Hoc Committee will be appointed by Governor Orr to evaluate the Conference plans and determine what existing organizations might logically be called upon to incorporate Conference recommendations, or recommend alternatives to the use of existing organizations.

I O W A

GOVERNOR ROBERT D. RAY

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Administrative Assistant
Governor's Office
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
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TITLE: "Governor's Conference on Crime Prevention," "Governor's Youth Conference"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference; (5) Regional conferences, (15) workshops

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Crime Prevention - juvenile delinquency, substance abuse, violent and property crime, children in danger, protection of the elderly.

Recommendations: Yes

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Governor's Conference on Crime Prevention was held October 6-7, 1981 at the Marriott Hotel in Des Moines, Iowa.

In compliance with the guidelines of the states' grants to hold statewide meetings in place of the White House Conference on Children and Youth, the appropriate agencies determined crime prevention and juvenile delinquency to be the focus of Iowa's conference. The repercussions of crime are felt by families of those convicted as well as by the victims. Children, youth and families are all affected by crime.

Although Iowa is still a relatively safe place to live, a recent report by the Department of Public Safety showed that Iowa's crime rate rose 10 percent in 1980 compared to 1979. Any increase in crime is a matter of concern and must be addressed.

GOAL:

To explore and develop crime and delinquency prevention methods and to assist Iowa's citizens, community organizations, criminal justice system practitioners, and local government.

RATIONALE:

Prevention depends upon the active concern and cooperation of individual citizens, civic, business and religious groups, schools, and elected officials in addition to the police, courts, correctional agencies, and youth service providers. No one single group can effectively combat crime and delinquency; each sector of Iowa's society must do what is necessary to achieve long-term prevention. This project will serve to identify the measures that should be taken by each sector of the state's society to achieve this objective.

METHOD:

More than 800 Iowans from the state's 99 counties were invited to participate in the Conference. Those invited represented civic, business, public interest, and religious groups, elected local and state officials, justice system professionals including sheriffs, police administrators, defense and prosecutorial staff, judges and court personnel, corrections staff, youth service providers, educators and others concerned with preventing crime and delinquency in Iowa.

PURPOSE:

1. To provide individuals and communities with specific information about practice steps that can be taken to prevent crime.
2. To provide ideas on how to organize your home, city or country to disseminate information and to enlist others in this effort.
3. To secure a commitment from the participants that they would continue to work in the days and weeks ahead to combat crime.

CONTENT:

There were five main topic areas identified as key areas to be examined in mini-conference format. They were:

1. Violent and property crime
2. Substance abuse
2. Juvenile delinquency
3. Children in danger
4. Protection of the elderly

Five member teams were designated from each county in order to have representation at each mini-conference.

RESULTS:

The Conference stimulated interest and activity as well as recommendations for programs and legislation. The developments are:

1. Violent and property crime

   - o State crime stoppers programs
   - o Statewide distribution of the "Crime Biter" newsletter
   - o Golden Badge Award
   - o Peace Officers Hall of Fame
   - o Assignment of fifteeen Community Service Officers to assist local crime prevention efforts

2. Substance Abuse

   - o Five regional workshops entitled, "Help Communities Help Themselves," with 132 communities being represented
   - o Awarded sixty organizational grants to communities to start substance abuse prevention programs
   - o Drug Profits Act
   - o Outlawing Turkey/Look Alike drugs
   - o Increasing drug fines

3. Juvenile Delinquency

   - o Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Center
   - o Sixty communities and organizations received grants for juvenile delinquency prevention projects

4. Children in Danger

   - o Governor's recommendation for over $100,000 for Child Abuse Prevention Programs
   - o Parent education program for inmates at the women's reformatory

5. Protection of the Elderly

   - o Twenty elderly crime prevention pilot programs
   - o Elderly Abuse Prevention Program

K A N S A S

GOVERNOR JOHN CARLIN

CONTACT PERSON: Mr. Warren Bell, Chairman
Children and Youth Advisory Committee
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TITLE: "Keeping our Youth in Kansas"

FORMAT: (2) Regional conference, (5) workshops each; Information exhibits

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Legislation, Employment, Support Services, Education, Health and Environment

Recommendations: Yes

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The population of Kansas (July 1, 1981) is 2,363,611. Of the approximately 900 persons who attended the Kansas White House Conference on Children & Youth, 403 organizations were represented. The Kansas Conference was under budget by some $10,115.43 of the $34,918 grant as of this report date. Conferences were held in Kansas City (October 23) and Wichita (October 28) with three and one half months planning begun July 1st. Staff included one director, one part-time assistant-secretary, two coordinators hired for the month of October in the conference cities. A promotion committee was formed as were in-house steering committees comprised of the four sponsoring state agencies' staff members. The Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services administered the grant issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and provided the service of a graphic artist. Each of the four sponsoring state agencies assigned a liaison, held in-house committee meetings, sent brochures and/or related agencies and organizations and coordinated exhibits.

THREE-PART CONFERENCE FORMAT

The findings of this research were (1) that corporations are just not aware of how strongly the working public feels about workplace issues. 2. That there is a growing concern among employers, labor leaders and officials in the State of Kansas about our youth, our greatest resource, and the problem of job migration from our state, that the state has a low unemployment rate, and that there is a demand for additional employees. 3. That children and youth program directors in the fields of health, education, job training and social services, in order to keep their programs viable, are looking toward building "linkages" with each other and with state policymakers. 4. That in view of the increased responsibility and diminished revenue of Kansas state government, more and more emphasis is being put on reciprocal agreements and sharing of information between state agencies; between state agencies and private organizations; between children and youth program directors and state policymakers, both public and private. With these findings in mind, the conference took a three-part form: showcasing programs for children and youth; luncheon/panel presentation; workshops.

THE BROCHURE DISTRIBUTION

An August mailing to 363 statewide associations announced the conference and asked for assistance in promotion, resulting in a 41% response.

There were 15,198 brochures that were distributed by 33 community or civic organizations, 31 education associations, 27 social service organizations, 23 government agencies and state associations, 15 health organizations, 6 labor associations, 4 minority organizations, 3 business associations, 3 religious organizations and a business journal, among others. The conference brochure was also distributed through the sponsoring state agencies (4,380) and, by the conference office to state associations and agencies, organizations, and to interested persons (12,000).

THE PROMOTIONAL COMMITTEE

Candidates were submitted by community leaders across the State. Over 60 names were submitted to the Governor's Office for appointment to a steering committee. Because the federal grant was not received until Friday, August 14, the Governor's Office felt it was too late to process these candidates as officially appointed steering committee members and agreed to send a letter asking candidates to serve as a promotional committee member. All 44 members were sent on-going memoranda after telphone conferences discussing their promotional role, i.e., alerting media, constituents, interested organizations.

MEDIA

A public service announcement taping by the Governor announcing the conference was run by 39 radio stations. The Governor's Office sent press releases prior to Kansas City and Wichita conferences. Two Kansas City newspapers ran three articles; three Wichita and one Kansas City television stations covered the conference. There were three radio interviews, in Hutchinson, Topeka and Kansas City and two television interviews, Topeka and Wichita, before the conference.

EXHIBITS

The purpose of the the exhibits was to provide a format in which many groups could participate in an information exchange; by viewing the exhibits make business and other public and private sector policymakers and more aware of services to the children and youth-who are both members of employee families but also the future supply of labor; to provide an opportunity for contact among program directors, legislators, agency heads, employers, labor leaders, church leaders, child advocates and other interested persons with an informal fair-like atmosphere.

Of the 198 programs exhibited from the following areas: Education (68), social service (48) community, civic, political groups (26), health (30), business (2), minority (1) and religious (3). Kansas State Departments of Education (6), of Health and Environment (6), of Human Resources (4), of Social and Rehabilitation Services (3) and of Transportation (1). (See Resource Directory and Supplement.)

LUNCHEON/PANEL PRESENTATION

The panel presentation was given during a luncheon where the special guests, exhibitors and conferees attended. The Governor (and Lt. Governor in Wichita), Commissioner of Education (the Assistant Commissioner in Kansas City), Secretary of Social Services, Secretary of Health, Secretary of Human Resources spoke about their agency's role on the topic of "Keeping Our Youth in Kansas". Also on each panel were a member of the Kansas legislature, a representative of organized labor and (in Kansas City) the owner of a child care center located in an industrial park in Manhattan, Kansas, and (in Wichita) a child care center administrator for a local hospital.

The purpose of the panel presentation/luncheon was to attract policymakers including employers in the conference to hear from state agencies, the state legislature, from labor and an employer/day care director on the problem of the migration of our youth from the State and to view the exhibits.

Ten percent of the 2,615 public and private sector policymakers who were invited by the Governor to attend the luncheon/panel presentation, represented the following fields:

Education (29%), local and state government (15%), social services (12%), miscellaneous community, civic & political (33%), health (44%), religious (3%), media (1%), business (.007%), labor (.007%) and minority (.003%).

WORKSHOPS

Each of the four sponsoring agencies gave a workshop. The fifth workshop was a legislative forum on how to approach the legislature. These workshops were held to compliment the information exchange on the exhibit floor.

The Department of Health & Environment - Perinatal Care Workshops

In Kansas City a general outline of the statewide perinatal care program services was explained, i.e., as a resource to health care providers and families; the mainstreaming of adolescent mothers.

The Kansas City workshop leader, a state university medical school instructor, commented he was impressed by the intensity, the dedication and commitment of the conferees in his workshop and he enjoyed the discussion as extremely practical, and the conference as having a "different format with a different purpose, where conferees were able to solve problems at the grassroots, on a day-to-day basis."

During the roundtable discussion interest centered on the healthy start program where a lay-parent makes visitation to the hospital and high risk situations are picked up by the county health nurse; an alternative to the nursing shortage described by the conferee. A Topeka pediatrician had a suggestion that when there is need for a baby to be transferred into intensive care that a pediatric nurse be transferred also. The healthy start program was described by another conferee, a country health offical and county health nurse.

The Kansas State Department of Education Workshop- Preparing Kansas Students For A World Beyond the Next Grade

The Commissioner of Education (Assistant Commissioner in Wichita) gave a brief overview of the functions and services of the Department.

The rest of the workshop was devoted to discussing career education in Kansas' schools. Presenters explained the philosophy and development of the career education approach in our schools, and they offered examples of the classroom activities that help students, at all grade levels, to relate subject matter in occupations and the world of work. Kansas Careers, a new computerized career information system, now being used in many high schools in the state, was also demonstrated, and conference participants were given the opportunity to inquire, through a microcomputer, about their own career interest and abilities.

The Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services Workshop - Support Services for a Stable Family Life

Beginning with an overview of child welfare services, each panel member of the Protective Service Section discussed referrals made to resources within the community used when working with families, i.e., juvenile courts, mental health associations, family service centers, mental health centers, school systems, income maintenance rehabilitation. During the question and answer period, discussion hinged on the impact of cuts on child care services, the importance of networking and the necessity for cooperation. The point was made that no one agency can do it alone.

The Department of Human Resource Workshop-Employment and Youth

Presented was an overview of youth programs with particular emphasis on the Department's function as a statewide resource for employment and training services. As a result of the presentation, conferees were able--to identify basic elements of services provided by participating Department of Human Resources agencies; to discuss the relationship of these agencies to other agencies in terms of services to the public; to identify specific ways in which these agencies function as a statewide resource to unemployed persons and employers.

As an added highlight, presentations were given by participants of four youth programs. One youth in particular told about his entrance into the program, that he was impressed with the efficiency of his getting a position and that "if there were anyone" in the audience "who were responsible for keeping the program going, I just want to say, 'Go to it.' A state legislator attending the workshop was impressed. A high school career counselor commented the workshop was a "good combination of workers and kids".

The Legislative Workshop

This workshop was presented in each city by a Kansas State Reprsentative. In Kansas City a registered state lobbyist explained his role in the leglislative process. The objective of the workshop was to enable participants to communicate proposals to the legislature in the most effective manner.

Presented were examples of how a bill is introduced, how is it affected by pressure groups or by lobbyists or other interested parties; examples of the processes and procedures as a bill moves through the legislature; examples of the role of the legislature, the governor, the lobbyist, the interest group; and (in Wichita) discussion of the effect of block grants.

The Children and Youth Advisory Committee held an offical meeting during the October 28 Wichita Conference and a discussion period was open to conferees.

RESOURCE DIRECTORY

The Resource Directory was compiled for conferees for use in their information exchange during the conference and after as a reference. A supplemental directory was also produced. The 650 Resource Directories and Supplements were distributed during the conferences, 190 were sent to the Kansas Congressional Delegation offices and members of the Kansas Legislature and 75 were sent to a Kansas university professor for use in his class.

WRITTEN COMMENTS OF CONFEREES

Written comments of the conferees were directed to the greatest needs facing Kansas children and youth today, the greatest program vacuums and impressions of the conference as a whole, the luncheon/panel distribution, the exhibits and the workshops.

FOLLOW-UP

Final reports were sent to all exhibitors, organizations which assisted, state commission offices, the Kansas State Board of Education, the Board of Regents, state legislators, members of congress and their offices, Kansas Association of Broadcasters and to Kansas Information Network.

Recommendations were presented to the Children and Youth Advisory Committee, on December 14, 1981, (1) that the remaining funds be transferred to the Children and Youth Trust Fund (2) that the mailing list with bibliography be available upon request to interested groups and be administered by the Children and Youth Advisory Committee, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, 6th Floor, State Office Building, Topeka Kansas 66612 and (3) that the Advisory Committee be expanded to include a member from the business sector and a member representing organized labor.

Further details of the conference can be obtained from the Final Report of the 1981 Kansas White House Conference on Children & Youth.

K E N T U C K Y

GOVERNOR JOHN Y. BROWN

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to the Commissioner
Division of Field Services
Bureau of Social Services
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Frankfort, Kentucky 40621
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TITLE: "Today's Child - Tomorrows Future"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference, (5) workshops

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Education - special needs, funding, curriculum; Status of Families - alternative placement, foster care and adoption, income/finances, support services for families, child abuse/neglect; Health/Mental Health - prevention, diagnosis and intervention, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, sucide, right to health care.

Recommendations: Yes - extensive

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GOAL OF CONFERENCE

To develop strategies to maintain and strengthen services to children and youth in the wake of recent federal and state budget reductions.

PLANNING AND COORDINATION

Responsibility for the planning and coordination of the State Conference was given to the Kentucky Department for Human Resources. To assist in their task, the Secretary of the Department appointed a seventeen member Steering Committee. The Steering Committee was composed of representatives from advocacy groups, direct service providers, service organizations, and interested citizens from across the Commonwealth.

OUTREACH

Every effort was made to make Kentuckians aware of the conference through direct mailings of conference announcements and the news media. Over 3,000 announcements were sent to public and private agencies, providers of service, service organizations, advocacy groups and interested citizens. Invitations were also extended to members of the Kentucky General Assembly, the Kentucky Congressional Delegation and to business and industries located in the Commonwealth.

LOCATION AND DATE OF CONFERENCE

The conference was held at Lexington Center in Lexington, Kentucky on November 12-13, 1981.

PARTICIPANTS

Over 500 individuals from state and local governments, private organizations, voluntary organizations, and individuals attended the conference.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers played a vital role at the conference. Over 66 individuals served as resource persons and forum facilitators on a voluntary basis.

PROGRAM

The Keynote Speaker for the Conference was Mr. Robert Carleson, Special Assistant to President Reagan. Mr. Carleson spoke on the decentralization of human service programs and its implications for state and local governments.

Following Mr. Carleson's address, Dr. Grady Stumbo, Secretary, Kentucky Department for Human Resources, and Mr. Raymond Barber, Superintendent of Public Instructions discussed how "decentralization" would affect human services and education in Kentucky.

Ms. SuEllen Fried, President, National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Shawnee Mission, Kansas, also spoke at the opening session of the conference. She spoke about her work with the National Chapter and how she was able to begin the Chapter without the aid of Federal and State funds.

The opening session was concluded with a panel of reactors composed for individuals outside of the social service delivery system. The goal of this segment of the agenda was to bring before the conference participants a fresh, creative way of looking at problems that confront human service providers and educators.

Also included on the program was a legislative forum led by Michael Moloney, Chairman, Appropriations and Revenue Committee, Kentucky Senate. This forum allowed for interactions between members of the Kentucky General Assembly and conference particpants.

ISSUES/RECOMMENDATIONS

The issues/recommendations contained in this final Kentucky Conference on Children and Youth Report resulted from the deliberations of the participants attending the conference. These deliberations took place in forums that were held on both days of the conference. The issues/recommendations have been divided into three major areas: Education, Health and Mental Health, and Status of Families.

IMPLEMENTATION

The issues/recommendations will be forwarded to all the conference participants and interested individuals. In addition, they will go to the appropriate governmental agencies/organizations/ groups/ and state legislators for their review.

L O U I S I A N A

GOVERNOR DAVID C. TREEN

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Bureau of Child Develeopment
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Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

TITLE: "First Governor's Conference on Children and Youth"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference, (6) workshops.

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Parenting, Substance Abuse, Juvenile Justice, Youth Employment, Recreation, Health, Alternative Education, Networking

Recommendations: Yes

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The first White House Conference on Children was held in 1909 under the Theodore Roosevelt administration and resulted in the establishment of a federal agency for Children's Services. Other White House Conferences held in 1919 through 1960 have focused on such areas as child health and protection, youth priorities, children in democracy and education. For the first time since 1909, under the direction of President Reagan, the states were given the opportunity to design and conduct state conferences on children and youth.

In this respect, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Richard Schweiker, indicated on May 12, 1981 "...that the White House Conference on Children and Youth would be implemented through conferences convened by the States, Territories, and the District of Columbia." Louisiana responded to this call on June 5, 1981 by submitting a Conference outline which built on the First Governor's Conference on Children and Youth in which the youth of Louisiana established their priorities.

The theme of the Louisiana Conference on Children and Youth was established by Governor David C. Treen as "...the focus of [the

Conference] will be the examination of the ways in which families and community groups, in times of governmental budget constraints can meet the needs of contemporary youth."

THE GOALS OF THE CONFERENCE

The Administration of the Conference was a joint effort of the Department of Health and Human Resources, Child Development Bureau and the private citizens (16 members) appointed by Governor David Treen to act as the Planning Committee for the Conference. The Conference dates were set by the Committee to be January 15/16, 1982 and the official name of the Conference was selected to be - The Second Governor's Conference on Children and Youth. It was orginally hoped that between 1000-1200 participants would attend the Conference but with the short period of time for planning and the eventual detrimental bad weather (snow and ice storms - first time in one hundred years in Louisiana) the Conference was attended by approximately 425 participants - 240 adults and 185 youth (high school age).

The main goal of the Conference was to provide an opportunity to develop a community agenda for action to meet the challenges of today's changing communities. The Second Governor's Conference on Children and Youth was to serve as a stimulus for change by exposing the participants to innovative ideas and perspectives which could be incorporated into their activities and, in a true sense, initiate the theme of the Conference.

THE CONFERENCE

The Second Governor's Conference on Children and Youth was held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on January 15/16, 1982. The Conference was divided into two separate and distinctive work plans for the two days of the Conference. The first day was set aside for workshop discussions in the six issue areas established by the Governor's Planning Committee. These areas were: Parenting, Substance Abuse, Juvenile Justice, Youth Employment and Recreation, Health (Mental and Physical) and Alternative Education.

The second day of the Conference was divided in working toward action plans in the District, Topic and Parish meetings.

In the first day's workshop sessions the six issue areas were presented simultaneously for three time period and the Conference participants were allowed to attend three sessions. The discussions in the workshops centered around the following: (see attached program)

1. Parenting - workshops were presented by staffs of parenting centers in Baton Rouge, Lafayette and New Orleans. Each program has a technically different approach to parent education but the goals are similar - preventing problems

arising in children and families due to the lack of service support and education to parents. Each center presented information regarding the establishment of a center based on public interest and need.

Leaders were: Pam Mong, Belva Mitchell, Lynn Gavin, Betsy Backe and Donna Newton, Jim Lewis.

2. Substance Abuse - workshop presented by medical staff member of a Shreveport medical center - Presentation on a new way of perceiving the use and abuse of drugs. Additionally, a successful program (SAPE) which establishes teams of parents working with school personnel and substance abuse experts was discussed.

   Leaders were: Beth Watkins, SAPE Coordinator, Brenda Backa, B.S.C.W. of E.T.C. and Dr. Phil Jobe, LSU-Shreveport.

3. Juvenile Justice - Presentation by staff members of LSU Governmental Services Institute on juvenile justice and how to establish a functioning statewide network to solve the problems in this topic area. A variety of visual aids and handouts were employed to ensure audience participation.

   Leader was: Kerry Everitt, LSU Government Services Institute

4. Youth Employment and Recreation - The status of employment and recreation for youth in Louisiana was presented through a panel discussion. Present programs and mechanisms dealing with these issues were presented and trends in community efforts intended to bring about positive results were discussed.

   Leaders were: Ancil Wilkinson, Louisiana Department of Labor, Donna Chite, Montgomery Co. Recreation Department, Maryland, Gale Glapion, Street Academy of New Orleans, Dr. Maxine Copeland, Orleans Parish Schools, Frank Pinion, Urban League of New Orleans, Dr. C. D. Ellis, Delgado Campus.

5. Health (Mental and Physical) - The chairman of the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics discussed Louisiana programs on prenatal care, child abuse and infant mortality. The Director of the Family Therapy Center in Shreveport discussed the importance of a family unit in youth mental health and how to set up programs to help youth and parents cope with problems.

   Leaders were: Dr. Larry Hebert, Chief of Pediatrics, Earl K. Long Hospital, and Dr. Robert Rausch, Director of Family Therapy Center, Shreveport.

6. ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION - The workshop leaders discussed the problems of reading difficulties. Proven workable solutions were presented in the Spaulding reading method. Also discussed was the "how to reach" successfuly to students with severe behavioral problems.

   Leaders were: Helen Driscoll, Crescent City Baptist School, New Orleans, and Mrs. Jackson for James Seymore, Street Academy, New Orleans.

On the second day of the Conference, Saturday, January 16, 1982, the participants met in District meeting rooms in which the Governor's Planning Committee members lead discussions of "networking" or the development of mutual resource needs or resource availability in the respective areas and how establish communication links with existing services as well as establishing services as well as establishing new programs if needed.

Topics of interest were then discussed by the groups - brainstorming occured in roundtable discussions as the groups developed their plans of actions for implementing the results of workshop discussions.

Finally, the groups discussed at greater in-depth length their plans for action at the grass-roots/community level in parish (county) meetings.

RESULTS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

It was felt by all of the workshop leaders and the District and Parish meeting leaders that the "communication network" had been activated by the fact the future meetings were planned and by the realization of the participants that in many areas the partnership of private and public resources will now be available. The logo of the Conference was "A Time to Act" and the participants are well on their way to action in their local communities.

The results of the "plans for action" are divided into "District" recommendations, and are as follows:

SUMMARY OF SUGGESTIONS FROM DISTRICTS

1. District I
   - o organize task force in Jefferson Parish to meet 1-26-82
   - o create an organizational structure which will be resposible for developing continuing plans
   - o involve more youth on boards, especially school boards
   - o use media more effectively in every area, especially substance abuse
   - o develop parishwide resource directory (St. Tammany)
   - o develop "group guidance" classes in the schools
   - o develop "peer" multi-media education programs

2. District II
   - o additional media coverage for SAPE program
   - o advocacy of effective substance abuse programs by students and parents
   - o rehabilitative services needed at LTI (Louisiana Training Institute)
   - o extend recreation programs into evenings and weekends
   - o publish Youth Activities calendar in local newspaper
   - o reduce minimum wages for student workers
   - o increase vocational education in schools
   - o make short courses available to parents for dealing with children
   - o make scholarship funds programs and information more available to those students seeking aid
   - o involve churches more in lives of children
   - o increase detention facilities for youth offenders.

3. District III
   - o set up "help" programs for teenagers to help each other
   - o encourage work of River Parishes Foster Parent Association
   - o task force meetings in St. James Parish set for 2-6-82
   - o coordination of efforts of schools, businesses, church and community organizations in St. Charles Parish
   - o develop athletic programs in Lafourche Parish to help in fight against drug abuse

4. District IV
   - o increase youth participation on Acadia Parish school board
   - o develop plan for Teen Center to serve parishwide youth coalition
   - o attempt to start up SAPE program in St. Mary's Parish and St. Landry Parish
   - o increase media coverage for six issue areas
   - o develop better coordination between schools, citizens and police
   - o encourage more parental involvement in day care centers

5. District V
   - o review of DWI laws and enforcement
   - o review Juvenile Court system
   - o improve reading skills in schools
   - o introduce Parenting Education in schools
   - o establish Positive Peer/Parent modeling for children and adults
   - o establish chemical dependency units for adolescents
   - o increase coordination of existing services and programs
   - o increase mental health facilities in communities
   - o increase youth involvement in planning recreational needs
   - o educate employers about need for summer jobs for youth
   - o next meeting of District V delegates to be held 3-3-82

6. District VI
   - o introduce special reading programs in schools
   - o youth representation on school board
   - o implement drug education programs
   - o develop a "play therapy" center for emotionally abused children
   - o increase media coverage of issue areas
   - o increase parental involvement with schools
   - o develop resource directories for parishes in district

7. Districts VII and VIII (combined attendance)
   - o develop support groups to establish parenting centers in district
   - o increase use of volunteers
   - o work with business leaders to establish clearinghouse for youth jobs
   - o hold a one day seminar on "how to get a job"
   - o provide support to principals and teachers in sponsoring activities in school
   - o establish a regional juvenile detention facility
   - o increase media coverage of group successes
   - o work with Regional Children's Council in coordinating programs
   - o establish a task force of City Council, Policy Jury, Chamber of Commerce, social service organization and service clubs

Miscellaneous Suggestions:
   - o distribute publicity about Drug Abuse Prevention throughout the community
   - o identify key community role models and present them to the youths
   - o encourage development of a Peer Pressure Program Not to Use Drugs
   - o use celebrities as often as possible for getting message across
   - o develop a statewide "Resource Hotline" for all services to children and youth.

In conclusion, the participants in the Second Governor's Conference on Children and Youth are now in a position to serve the interests of the children and youth of Louisiana even more effectively in the year ahead. The providers of children's services must remain sensitive to the setting of priorities in this period of fiscal constraint so that the young people are not short-changed, for they remain Louisiana's future, our greatest natural resource.

M A I N E

GOVERNOR JOSEPH E. BRENNAN

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Department of Human Resources
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Augusta, Maine 04333
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TITLE: "Blaine House Conference on Children and Youth"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference, (7) Forums

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Employment, Education, Health, Special Needs, Substance Needs, Substance Abuse, Day Care, Adolescent Sexuality, Child Abuse, Juvenile Justice, Recreation, Family Life.

Recommendations: Yes - extensive

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HISTORY

In 1909, President Theodore Roosevelt hosted the first White House Conference on Children and Youth. Every decade since then Congress has provided Federal dollars to bring key policymakers, parents and interested persons from across the country together to discuss the critical needs of our nation's children and youth.

In April, 1981 President Ronald Reagan reallocated the Federal appropriation for the White House Conference on Children and Youth to the individual states and territories for the development and execution of local conferences. This action interrupted the eighty year tradition of national conferences, held in Washington, D.C., to address the complex issues relating to children. The summer and fall of 1981 brought great concern on the part of the Governor, policymakers and direct service organizations for the funding and continuation of many services for Maine's children. New Federal policies, impending budget cuts and upcoming block grant procedures threatened the existence of priority programming for children and youth.

Out of concern for the lack of national emphasis on children and youth, Governor Joseph E. Brennan announced that Maine would host the 1981 Blaine House Conference on Children and Youth as part of the national network of White House Conferences. This announcement was well received by parents and child advocates throughout the state who joined the Governor in his concern for the national priorities for children and youth.

In October, 1981, Governor Brennan assigned primary authority for the planning and development of the conference to the Department of Human Services in cooperation with the Department of Educational and Cultural Services and the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. The Samoset Conference Center in Rockport was chosen as the conference site for December 11 and 12, 1981.

PURPOSE

The 1981 Blaine House Conference on Children and Youth was a special event involving children and families from all over Maine in a major discussion of how to build communities that are responsive to children and youth. The Conference was designed to give Maine people an opportunity to discuss and to solve their own problems.

Unlike the recent Blaine House Conference on Families held in May, 1980, the Conference on Children and Youth was not designed to provide policy and lawmakers with profuse recommendations and resolutions on further government involvement in the lives of children and families.

PARTICIPATION

The Conference was open to the general public and included the children of participants. Mailing lists were acquired from the three participating State departments and service organizations involved in activities for children and families. Press release were placed in Maine newspapers and broadcast on television and radio. Nearly 5,000 notices and brochures throughout Maine to parents, educators, community service personnel, policymakers, legislators, clergy, the business community and more.

A lottery system was developed in case an overwhelming response necessitated participant limitation. By the close of registration, November 30, approximately 300 men and women and 100 children were registered for the Blaine House Conference on Children and Youth.

Families and children came from many different parts of the State, urban and rural, coastal and inland. They represented all economic and income levels. They were of all ages and included single persons, natural parents, step-parents, grand-

parents, adoptive parents, foster parents and non-parents. Although there were many more and different persons who would have liked to participate, this cross-section of Maine life enabled participants to have exciting, vital dialogues and debates on issues of concern to them.

CONTENT

The forum agenda included a discussion of:

Building a Community Responsive to Children and Youth;
The Worker and the Workplace;
The Developing Adult Within the Community;
The Education of Our Children;
The Promotion of Health and Wellness;
Child and Family Survival in Maine; and
The Community Response to Children and Youth with Special Needs.

The format for the seven forums included a presentation by a selected authority(s) in the field and, with the assitance of a skilled moderator, a response by a panel of interested citizens from various walks of life.

Keynote addresses were provided by the Honorable Governor Joseph E. Brennan, Commissioner Michael Petit of the Department of Human Services and Dr. Lee Salk, noted author and Family Psychologist. Each spoke to the need for shared concern and shared responsibility for our children and youth on the part of Maine citizens, Maine communities and State and Federal government.

Commissioner Kevin Concannon of the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and Commissioner Harold Raynolds of the Department of Educational and Cultural Services chaired and moderated conference forums on pertinent issues of concern to them. (Due to illness, Associate Commissiner Omar Norton substituted for Commissioner Raynolds.)

With children present and involved, individuals and families were constantly reminded of their purpose, to discuss the ways in which Maine can meet the needs of its children.

RESULTS

The 1981 Blaine House Conference on Children and Youth was a statement on the need for Maine citizens to look to themselves, to their neighborhoods, and to their communities for ways in which they can help themselves and help each other. They discussed how they could hold government responsible for the needs of their children. They debated the best use of their tax dollars. They challenged each other and their community institutions, churches, schools, municipal agencies, police

departments, medical institutions and the vast array of public and private agencies to cooperate and share in the responsibility for the care and nurturing of their children. They determined that they could no longer ignore the fact that each of them, as individuals, have an untold influence on every child they meet. They charged each other with the task of returning to their communities to inform, to instruct, to organize and to advocate for increased involvement of their resources and their energy in improving the environment in which Maine children live.

SUMMARY

The synopsis of the 1981 Blaine House Conference on Children and Youth will be presented to Governor Joseph Brennan. In addition, the synopsis will be transmitted to the White House Conference on Children and Youth, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C., to be compiled into a representative document and submitted to the White House. Conference participants will receive a copy of the synopsis. Additional copies will be available through the Office of the Commissioner, Department of Human Services, Augusta, Maine.

The following synopsis includes the three major addresses in order of their presentation at the Conference. Two methods of collecting information from Conference forums was utilized in developing forum summaries. First, reporters were assigned to each session of every forum and asked to observe and recall the major areas of agreement, areas of disagreement, and potential solutions or recommendations from among the panel discussion and the audience participation. Secondly, each conference parlticipant was asked to complete a Forum Response Form. They were asked to enumerate any new information that they learned, identify critical issues which they felt required future action, and determine who should be responsible for each action. Direct quotations from the Response Forms have been included in the Forum Summary. The comments do not represent a consensus of opinion. The remainder of the synopsis includes the agenda, children's activities and an information sheet on groups and individuals providing support for the Conference.

M A R Y L A N D

GOVERNOR HARRY R. HUGHES

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TITLE: "Strengthening Relationships Between Children, Youth and Adults"

FORMAT: Regional conferences, (70) workshops; (14) Public forums, Speakouts, Town meetings; (13) Large scale events, Youth fairs, Talent shows, Breakfast receptions, Youth recognition days, (50) Small events, Open houses, Church services, Dinners.

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Substance Abuse, Education, Day Care, Youth Employment, Adolescent Sexuality, Child Abuse, Juvenile Justice, Recreation, Family Life, (21 other topics)

Recommendations: Yes - extensive

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During November, 1981, the Governor's Conference on Children and Youth was held in Maryland. The conference was decentralized in order to provide local citizens an opportunity to assume primary responsibility for their conference activities. Twenty-two of Maryland's twenty-four local jurisdictions participated in the conference.

Governor Harry R. Hughes designated the Office of Children and Youth as the state agency to plan and coordinate the conference in Maryland. Members of the State Advisory Committee to the Office and representatives from the Governor's Youth Advisory Council constituted a planning committee to assist the Office in developing the conference.

Six conference objectives were formulated:

1. To articulate the young child's concrete and emotional needs, and those supports required by the child's primary caregivers to fulfill their responsibilities to the young child.
2. To promote the need, desire and ability of older children and youth to communicate and negotiate for themselves with the adults world.
3. To heighten community sensitivity and knowledge regarding the needs, problems and concerns of children and youth.
4. To achieve a wider sense of community responsiblity for the well-being of children and youth.
5. To foster constructive discussion and dialogue between children, youth and the adults in their lives.
6. To strengthen children and youth advocacy networks.

A conference theme was developed: "Strengthening Relationships Between Children, Youth and Adults". This theme was chosen to emphasize the importance of communication between the generations, and to encourage conference formats that would bring together individuals from different generations. The word 'adults' was used rather than 'parents', to emphasize that the well-being of children and youth is a responsibility of <u>all</u> adults.

The mechanism for bringing the Governor's Conference to the local level was a statewide network of Children's Councils. The Children's Councils are appointed by local elected officials and serve as local children and youth advocacy groups. The Office for Children and Youth provided overall conference guidelines, technical assistance and support to local conference coordinators and their planning committees.

The Governor's Conference on Children and Youth was an informal conference. Delegate selection and resolution-building processes were ruled out from the start. It was felt that formal protocols would have excluded participation by many individuals, and the conference was intended to reach the largest population possible, especially individuals and organizations who are not particularly sensitive to issues affecting children and youth.

Over 8,000 children, youth and adults actively participated in local conference activities. These activities included seventy issue-specific workshops, panels and task forces; fourteen unspecified public forums, speakouts and town meetings; thirteen large-scale family and community events such as youth fairs, talent shows, breakfast receptions and youth recognition days; over 50 smaller events such as open houses sponsored by day care centers and juvenile service agencies, church services emphasizing children and youth themes, and a variety of dinners at which local conference coordinators were guest speakers.

In addition, over 150 local children and youth organizations had displays at shopping malls, and children and youth artworks were displayed by local businesses. In-school activities included poster/essay contests, conference-related assemblies and discussion groups. Several surveys or questionnaries were conducted, and specific coverage by local newspapers, radio and television stations occurred throughout the State. There is no way to determine the numbers of people who were indirectly exposed to the Governor's Conference as listeners, viewers or readers, but it is assumed that the overall media audience, however 'passive' its participation, greatly outnumbered those who actively participated in workshops, forums and other community events previously noted.

While most of Maryland's children and youth are secure in the basic necessities of life, and progressing reasonably well toward productive adulthood, it is clear that a great many of our children and youth are hurting. This 'hurting' is evident in the expressed concerns of conference participants.

Over 30 issues were discussed during the Governor's Conference, nine of which emerged as priorities:

Alcohol and Other Drugs
Education
Child Day Care
Youth Employment
Adolescent Sexuality
Child Abuse
Juvenile Justice
Recreation
Family Life

Findings and recommendations on these priority issues are documented in the full report.

Overall conclusions are embodied in the following generalizations.

1. Parents today are beset with a multiude of problems that remove them from their children's lives. Whether these problems are economic or narcissistic, the fact is that many parents are not available as meaningful influences in their children's lives. Therefore, policy - at least in the short term - must compensate for the absence of parents in children's lives.
2. Older children and youth are increasingly isolated from meaningful contact with the adult world - not just from their parents, but from all the institutions of adult society. Thus, in addition to a policy of 'compensation' for parental absence, we need policies that effectively relate youth to the adult world.
3. Poverty and racism, and the pressures on families that result from both, will continue to undermine program-

matic efforts to help parents to be better caregivers. If parents are continually preoccupied with their own needs, they have no 'surplus' from which to give to their children. We cannot solve our problems with reactive human service programs while avoiding 188 bottom-line issues of poverty and racism.

M A S S A C H U S E T T S

GOVERNOR EDWARD J. KING

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TITLE: "Action Agenda for the 1980's"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference, (11) workshops

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Work, Poverty, Family Violence, Public Educating, Health, Day Care, Deinstitutionalizaton, Delinquency, Permanent Planning for Foster Children, Families of the Future

Recommendations: Yes - extensive

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

Over 600 state and national leaders attended the Massachusetts Conference on Children, Youth and Families to discuss the needs of the Commonwealth's children and families. Special efforts were made to bring together individuals from a broad range of backgrounds and view points. Conference participants represented the Legislature, state human service agencies, voluntary sector, judicial system, business and industry, religion, health, health, education, advocacy groups, news media, and private citizens.

The purpose of the Conference was to find new strategies of social service for improving the quality of family life in an era of rapid demographic change and shrinking economic resources. The fundamental question posed to Conference participants reflected the central concern of the Commonwealth: in light of the New Federalism and current fiscal constraints, what must

state government do to support and strengthen families? To address this question, the Conference included a plenary session devoted to the policy context for the 1980s and eleven working sessions focusing state attention on the complex and compelling issues confronting the Commonwealth's families. The issues included: work, poverty, family violence, public education, health, day care, deinstitutionalization, delinquency, networking, permanent planning for foster children, and families of the future. In each working session, Conference participants examined the critical issues affecting Massachusetts children, youth and families; scrutinized present policies and practices in both the public and private sectors; and discussed proposals for new strategies of social service supportive of families and children.

The Proceedings of the Massachusetts Conference on Children, Youth and Families represent a factual summary of the Conference deliberations and recommendations. The Proceedings highlight recommendations made during the Conference as well as those subsequently submitted in writing. In light of the working nature of Conference forums, no votes were taken on the recommendations. They do not necessarily reflect a consensus of opinion, but the profound concerns and sober deliberations of concerned Massachusetts citizens who attended the Conference. Given the diversity and complexity of the issues affecting the Bay State's children and families, the recommendations resulting from the Conference will serve as a foundation for further anaylsis, discussions and action.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS

Throughout the two-day Conference, consensus emerged among panelists and audience partcipants that government cannot effectively express concern for the welfare of children and youth without a comprehensive, coordinated focus on the family -- the Commonwealth's most vital resource. Recognizing the need to strengthen rather than substitute for families, participants advocated for strategies.

- o enabling families to sustain or restructure their own environments on behalf of their children and themselves, and
- o valuing the natural support networks of families - the neighborhood, work place, and community.

Responsibility for improving the quality of family life for children and parents was viewed as a shared, mutual obligation on the part of private citizens and public officials, the profit and non-profit sectors alike.

While the Conference participants seemed to agree on fundamental principals, they did not reach consensus about specific means for achieving their common goal of strenthening and supporting

families. A basic dichotomy emerged regarding the role and responsibility of state government in ensuring the wellbeing of children and youth in the context of their families. On the one hand, participants called for decreased public social welfare expenditures to promote greater family and individual responsibility. Citing the current scope of problems as evidence of the failure of public programs, they viewed excessive government spending as undermining the integrity and capacity of families to nurture their children. On the other hand, participants urged the Commonwealth at least to maintain, if not increase, present levels of social service while also increasing efficiency, effectiveness, and collaboration with the private sector and local communities. They expressed concern for retaining the progress achieved to date in the health and wellbeing of children and expanding the progress to those who have not yet realized improvements in the quality of family life.

Clearly, consensus did not emerge regarding the most effective means for state government to address the critical issues affecting children, youth, and families. However, specific strategies for revitalizing partnerships between parents and the primary agencies of socialization in community life arose as a consistent theme throughout the Conference. Regardless of the issues involved, strengthening and building relationships between families and schools, place of worship, employers and neighborhoods as well as exisiting public and private agencies became central to many of the recommendations made.

POLICY CONTEXT FOR THE 1980's

Analysis of the New Federalism's implications for children, youth and families reflected the pluralism of views expressed throughout the Conference. Some posed the New Federalism -- less Federal funding and intrusion -- as a positive challenge for Massachusetts. The challenge involves efforts to reduce spiralling social service costs, eliminate waste and duplication, and improve program cost effectiveness. Suggestions for meeting this challenge include establishing realistic priorities, optimally using all available resources, improving program management, mobilizing the private sector, and making greater use of volunteers

Others viewed the New Federalism as an abdication of Federal responsibility for the health and wellbeing of the nation, especially social justice for the poor. Privatism will undermine the social contract of e pluribus unum, unless Americans turn away from preoccupation with the power of special interest groups and return to concern with the human needs of others. The progressive fragmentation and isolation of families, schools, and other child rearing settings suggest the need for public policies promoting the general welfare. First steps in this direction include encouraging accessibility of parents to their children, introducing a curriculum for caring in the schools, replacing the forty-hour work week with a thirty-hour week, and ensuring minimum viable incomes for all families with children.

Still others called for balance in government responsibility, national priorities, and resource appropriations. Some view the goal of the 1980's as removing government involvement from the building of a better society. Although government has overcentralized political power, the pendulum should not swing to the other extreme to say government has no concern or interest to the welfare of citizens. Government will continue to play an important role in creating a sense of mutual obligation, respect, and social cohesion.

The imbalance of national priorities and resource appropriations with the total needs of the nation causes grave concern. Potentially jeopardizing the infrastructure of this nation, the consequences of this imbalance will be harshest for the cornerstone of American society -- the family. Achieving a balance in appropriations and priorities will require recognition that the infrastructure of the nation is as vital to national security as the hardware in the nation's aresenal. In light of the critical issues children and families confront, the notion of an ethical budget -- one that considers human needs first -- becomes compelling. An ethical budget would put first health, education, and the building of supportive networks, neighborhoods, and communities.

SPECIFIC FINDINGS

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention: Special Issues for Children, Youth and Families

Continuation of recent child health progress emerged as the paramount concern. During the past decade, the health status of children has improved significantly. Infant mortality rates have decreased; childhood nutritional disorders have been virtually eliminated; major childhood infectious diseases have been brought under control. The present health status of children, however, does not represent an unassailable peak the state cannot lose if it acts unwisely.

Additionally, Massachusetts must extend the progress to citizens who have not yet realized the levels of health characterizing the more affluent. For example, a susbtantial difference still exists in the infant mortality rates for white and non-whites (10.4 vs. 16.0) deaths/1000 live births). The Commonwealth must also continue to address other health problems (e.g., child abuse and neglect, developmental and other disabilities, childhood accidents, prenatal nutrition, and low birthweight infant survival) and begin to grapple with issues resulting from the changing reality of the state's economic and social milieu (e.g., youth unemployment and toxic hazards).

As responsibility for family health devolves to state government, the Commonwealth's health services are declining in proportion to Federal funding reductions. Child health services are

fragmented, occurring under the auspices of many state agencies with limited inter-agency coordination and planning. Some forum participants advocated further funding reduction, maintaining that the availability of publicity-financed health services has undermined family responsibility. The fact remains that the health of the Bay State's children and families has never been better, in no small measure due to the health service access provided by the Commonwealth.

In the absence of a national health policy, the need for a sound state health policy, predicated on health promotion, disease prevention, and optimum health for families, becomes all the more urgent. A series of recommendations was made for preserving and further improving the health status of Massachusetts children, youth and families.

M I C H I G A N

GOVERNOR WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN

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TITLE: "Michigan Conference on Children and Youth"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference; Public Opinion poll; (5) Public hearings

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Child Development, Child Welfare, Education, Health Needs, The Economy, Juvenile Justice, Mental Health, Youth Employment.

Recommendations: Yes - extensive

Model Programs: No

Survey: Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. THE MICHIGAN CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The White House Conference on Children and Youth has been held in Washington, D.C. for every ten years since President Roosevelt called the first Conference in 1909. Upon taking office in 1981 President Reagan decided not to conduct the traditional conference, but instead to invite states to utilize the appropriated Federal funds to conduct individual state conferences.

In late July 1981, Federal approval was given to Michigan's plans to conduct a conference. Governor William G. Milliken appointed Shirley A. Tate, Director of Michigan's Office of Children and Youth Services, as the Conference Coordinator.

In late September and early October a series of five public hearings were held around the state to allow for broader citizen input than would be possible with a conference alone. Then on December 4, 1981, 600 people participated in the Michigan Conference on Children and Youth held at Cobo Hall in Detroit,

The topics covered were:

Child Development
Child Welfare
Education
Health Needs
Impacts of the Economy on Children and Youth at Home
Juvenile Justice
Mental Health
Youth Employment

B. THE CENTRAL ISSUE OF THE CONFERENCE

Very clearly, the central issue that emerged from the conference was the question of government's proper role in the provision of programs and services for children. Michigan is following, and is a part of, the national debate over the reduction or expansion of government services in the social services, health and educational fields.

That debate is perhaps more heated in Michigan than it is nationally as a result of the recession in Michigan. Several school districts have threatened to close their doors and one, county-wide system actually did close down. Several major industries in Michigan have closed or moved to other states.

The Michigan Conference on Children and Youth mirrored the struggle over whether the resolution to these problems is to be found in the expansion of services and programs to alleviate the impact on the state, the local level and the individual, or, in the reduction of programs and services with resultant reduction in the tax burden upon business, industry and individuals.

C. THE PUBLIC OPINION POLL: WHAT MICHIGAN REALLY WANTS

To determine more specifically where the various segments of Michigan's population stood on issues emerging from the Michigan Conference on Children and Youth, a public opinion poll was conducted.

Examination of the detailed findings of the poll indicates the following principal findings:

- Skepticism exists about the expansion of government to provide services. Less than a majority support expansion (43%), primarily a position supported by Blacks (75%). This expansion of services, if it were to occur, should be shared by both state and local government (64%).

- A sizeable number (43%) could not identify any service provided by state/local government. The largest identification was for roads (17) and police (13).

- Responsibility for providing supportive services such as job training, youth employment, and employee services was considered to be that of business with some government assistance (47%). However, tax credits/reduced taxes for business to provide services was positively supported by lower proportions, the highest being 41% for job training of the unskilled. Blacks and those supportive of government services had a greater tendency to favor lower business taxes.

- Upon inquiry 80% favored business tax credits to improve the "job climate" with no specific definition for the means to accomplish this feat.

- A restricted expansion of government was indicated when 69% favored a centralized office in the Department of Mental Health to provide youth/child services. Blacks and those on lower incomes particularly supported this expansion. Alternatively, 52% were opposed to creating a new department at the state level to coordinate child/family services. Those least favorable had college experience, had a household member in government employment and were in white collar occupations.

- Periodic review, as often as 6 months (80%) was supported by 78%, for children in foster care.

- Positive support (84%) was indicated for priority for state/Federal funding for programs for prevention of child abuse/neglect.

- Blacks consistently favored government expansion in providing health care screening and support to the family.

- The majority (59%) favored revisions in the method of educational funding; however, very few had a clear idea as to the alternative method.

- Blacks exceeded the average in favoring the present system of educational funding and expressed the belief that basic education should be provided for a longer period of time than did the population as a whole. The average age through which basic education should be provided was 20 years.

- Vocational (65%) and career education (60%) received the strongest support for future program expansion, primarily by those who seek a large role for government in the future. Less than a majority favored expansion of sex education (43%), and health screening (44%).

A. Legislature	B. Local Community and Private Sector	C. Executive Leadership	D. State/Federal Agencies	E. Education*
1. Revise the Michigan Juvenile Code. 2. Develop Private sector tax incentives for: - youth programs - job training for youth - provision of family supportive services 3. Establish, within the Legislature, a standing committee for children and family services, or establish a Department of Child and Family Services. 4. Enact legislation to create a positive job climate. 5. Restore the financial cutbacks, in both state and federal dollars, for children and youth programs. 6. Place statutory and fiscal emphasis on prevention and support services vs. remedial services. 7. Re-evaluate the funding of education both in regard to tax structures used, and in regard to the formulas for distribution.	1. Develop and require accountability to the public for coordination, regulation and delivery of all children, youth and family programs. 2. Stimulate increased responsibility for needs and services to children and families at local levels: - business - labor - individual - government 3. Emphasize prevention and support services vs. remendial services, especially primary and secondary prevention. 4. Require coordination, assessment and review of children and family programs: - public/private - intra-governmental - interdepartmental 5. Re-evaluate the funding of education both in regard to tax structures used, and in regard to the formulas for distribution.	1. Restore the fiscal cutbacks, in both state and federal dollars, for children and youth programs. 2. Create a positive job climate in Michigan. 3. Require coordination, assessment and review of children and family programs: - public/private - intra-governmental - inter-departmental 4. Establish an identifiable unit for children and families in those departments of state having significant involvement with, or impact upon, children and youth. 5. Re-evaluate the funding of education both in regard to tax structures used, and in regard to the formulas for distribution.	1. Restore the fiscal cutbacks. in both state and federal dollars, for children and youth programs. 2. Emphasize prevention and suppot services vs. remedial services. 3. Require coordination, assessment and review of children and family programs: - public/private - intra-governmental - inter-departmental 4. Establish an indentifiable unit for child/families in the Department of Mental Health 5. Re-evaluate the funding of education both in regard to tax structures used, and in regard to the formulas for distribution.	1. Restore the fiscal cutbacks, in both state and federal dollars, for children and youth programs. 2. Determine if basic education should be provided by the State of Michigan for all and if it should be: - public-privately funded - private-with some public funding 3. Local boards should involve parents in every level of educational decision-making with regards to: - texts - codes of dicipline - curriculum 4. Local boards should determine the will of the local community on provision of: - vocational education (marketable skills) - career education - sex education - health planning - funding for the above by private or public funds. 5. Re-evaluate the funding of education both in regard to tax structures used, and in regard to the formulas for distribution.

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M I N N E S O T A

GOVERNOR ALBERT H. QUIE

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TITLE: "Stress and Work - Addressing the Needs of Children, Youth and Parents - Models for Self-Reliance"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference, (51) workshops

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Family/Stress/Coping - strengthening individual and family relationships, strengthening children, youth and parents, coping with family stress; Work/Family - balancing work and family, employment policies and practices supportive of the family.

Recommendations: Yes

Model Programs: Yes (see Appendix B)

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

In 1981, the Governor's Advisory Committee on Families, the Governor's Task Force on Stress and Families, and the Governor's Task Force on Work and Families embarked on a project with three major goals in mind.

The first was to establish an interdisciplinary forum to affirm our commitment to family life, while acknowledging our tendency to sacrifice policies and programs to support families in hard economic times. Towards this end, the Governor's White House Conference was held, creating an awareness of the stressors, work-related demands, and coping strategies for families today, and highlighting models families, communities and organizations can use to strengthen families.

The second goal was to develop a set of recommendations to aid our leadership in both public and private sectors in meeting the needs of families in coping with stress, and in balancing work and family life.

The third goal was to initiate the dialogue with Minnesotans and develop a resource guide listing more than 100 programs in Minnesota promoting self reliance and coping in children, youth and parents.

OBJECTIVES: To Strengthen and Improve Coping; To Build Self Reliance in Children, Youth, Parents and Community Life

The mandate of the Task Force on Stress and Families was a broad one: to examine sources of stress on families, to examine how families were coping, and to develop a set of recommendations to guide the future development of policies and programs. The Task Force responded to this mandate with an awareness that (1) there were sixty specific policy recommendations advanced by the 1980 White House Conference on Families -- changes in tax law, innovative program ideas and icreases in funding and (2) the political and economic climate is in a state of change. The "New Federalism" in the United States is shifting responsibility for human services, for welfare, and for education, to the State and even the local government level, a major reversal of trends since World War II. The Task Force chose this unique opportunity to focus on understanding what Minnesotans have done to cope with the full range of stressors (economic, social, psychological) and what they have done to promote self reliance and to build a community life and programs which will strengthen families, children, youth and parents. The Governor's White House Conference offered the Task Force an opportunity to learn about Minnesotans, their needs and their innovative efforts to address their needs. It is out of this learning experience of communcating with Minnesotans, and on the basis of their expertise that the Governor's Task Force on Stress and Families formulated the following set of recommendations.

BASIC RELIEF: Family Rights and Responsibilities

It is vital that we articulate and act on our valuing of and commitment to all arrangements in which families are found, and assert that they all deserve a basic dignity and respect. We believe that everyone has a right to survival, which means being able to depend on having adequate food, housing, clothing, safety and health. We believe that everyone has the right to the opportunity for growth, which means access to resources to help them meet their goals in education, health, employment, personal and family development. It is also the family's right to make the decisions to carry out its responsibilities to its members, and to the community. The community, both the public and private sectors, has reciprocal rights and responsibilities to its members.

STRESS AND COPING RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recognize the strengths and dignity of all family forms. We need to ensure that programs and policies are directed to support and enhance the quality of life for all families in Minnesota.

2. Give priority to those programs and policies which strengthen family life, promote coping, and which enhance self reliance in children, youth and parents. Particularly during periods of economic instability we need to render a clear commitment to those programs and policies which will endow families with abilities, skills, and opportunities to be self reliant and contributing members to community life.

3. Give priority to those policies and programs which will ensure full employment for Minnesotans. Self esteem, dignity, dignity, self worth, family stability and the well being of children, youth and parents are greatly dependent upon the economic stability of the family unit.

4. Give priority to programs and policies designed to or have the greatest potential of preventing crises in children, youth and parents. Prevention of unnecessary family hardships can take the form of family life education for all stages of the life cycle, premarital and marriage enrichment, children and youth programs which promote coping skills and work skills.

5. Give priority to programs and policies which promote and strengthen formal and informal support networks in the community. As the burden of responsibility shifts from the Federal government to the State and local community, we need to direct our attention to how natural support networks can be protected and enhanced, how formal community services can be coordinated and how information can be disseminated to ensure that Minnesotans can obtain the type of services they need them.

6. Give priority to programs and policies directed at improving child care in Minnesota. We cannot afford to neglect services to children and particularly those community efforts to provide equality care for children as parents take on the added responsibilities and hardships brought about by an unstable economy and social situation.

7. Invest in efforts to keep Minnesotans better informed about services, programs, policies and changes. If there is a serious commitment to promoting self reliance in children, youth and parents, it would be in our best interest to expand upon our efforts to share information with our constituents in a timely and effective manner.

8. Minnesotans must involve themselves in the formulation and reformulation of policies and programs for children, youth and parents. All of those who care about families have a

responsibility to participate in public discussion of the issues and be involved in the decision making regarding programs and policies affecting them.

9. The legislative and executive branches of state governments must move rapidly to establish task forces and a consultative process on families to ensure effective communication between government and its people. As the "New Federalism" emerges, and the state absorbs more responsibilities for human service programs, it is necessary to clarify, reaffirm and act on our commitment to families, children and youth on a continuous basis.

WORK AND FAMILY RECOMMENDATIONS

10. Recommended: that the realities regarding changing work patterns (including developing technology) and work force composition together with their implications for families be publicized to policymakers, employees, program providers, union officials, and the general public through mass media, public awareness, and educational programs.

11. Recommended: that employing organizations, labor unions, community groups, and government cooperatively develop ways to help people cope with technological developments and other changes in work patterns -- for example, through retraining programs, career counseling, career development, vocational education, and moving allowances.

12. Recommended: that more effective socialization of young people for work be initiated. For example, employers should relax with their parents' workplace and allowing employees reasonable communication with family members while at work.

13. Recommended: that government and employing organizations consider ways to provide greater economic security for persons when they retire and provide for a smoother transition from work life to retirement.

14. Recommended: that the economic, social, and career value of homemaking (especially the homemaker's contribution to nurturing and socialization within the familiar unit) receive wider recognition.

15. Recommended: that, whenever possible, employers increase employee's flexibility and discretion in the establishment of working hours and permit employees to adjust their hours according to family needs (e.g. through flextime schedules, job sharing, permanent part-time work with adequate benefits, and work at home during scheduled hours when possible.)

16. Recommended: that educational organizations serving rural areas give priority program emphasis to the "work-family" concerns of farm families by offering educational programs (workshops, TV, radio programs, etc.) to families in rural Minnesota communities and by offering programs to farm service providers (bankers, agri-business personnel, and others) on such topics as farm family stress.

17. Recommended: that employing organizations continue to explore ways to subsidize assistance with child care, including: child care as an option in a "cafeteria style" benefit package, child care vouchers, community day care centers, the reservation of places in centers or in family day care homes, the compilation of information about day care slots and openings in the community, or on-site child care.

18. Recommended: that further research attention be devoted to various aspects of the interface between work and family.

19. Recommended: that employers conduct perodic surveys of their employees to discover particular work-family needs that are not being met. Information might also be obtained through the efforts of task forces on work and family issues.

20. Recommended: that employers provide on-site or easily available counseling services for employees and their families (or at least information regarding such services in the community) for a broad range of problems, including financial crisis, spouse or child abuse, chemical dependency, mental and emotional problems, marital conflict.

M I S S I S S I P P I

GOVERNOR WILLIAM F. WINTER

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TITLE: "When We Invest in Futures - We all Profit"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Policy Implications, Early Identification, Education, Health, Housing, Resources, Public/Private Partnership, Primary Prevention

Recommendation: Yes

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report will describe the deliberations, findings and recommendations of the Mississippi Governor's Business and Community Leaders Conference on Children and Youth, funded by grant number CG35, awarded by the Department of Health and Human Services, OHD. The report will recount the statewide volunteer conference planning committee, the conference and proceedings and the follow-up recommendations.

Sponsored by the Governor's Commission for Children and Youth, the conference addressed the theme, "When We Invest in Futures, We All Profit." The conference was held at the Holiday Inn Downtown in Jackson, Mississippi. This was selected due to its central location in the state and its accessibility to all participants. Over one-hundred-thirty statewide business, community and professional leaders participated in the one-day conference designed specifically to encourage greater interest and investment by Mississippi's business and community leadership in services to children.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

A sixteen-member conference planning committee was established consisting of six business, five community and five professional persons to assist the Commission in planning and executing the conference. Beginning September 17, 1981 the planning committee met six times to draft and formulate conference details. More specifically, the committee recommended the theme, purpose, format of the day, multimedia presentation and poster, program persons, and potential conference participants to the Commisssion and staff who endorsed and carried out those plans. The following statement of purpose, formulated by the conference planning committee, guided the plans and development of the conference:

> Mississippi's economic future depends on our children. At this particular time in history, the American voters have said we want less Federal control, regulation and funding. The Governor's Business and Community Leaders on Children and Youth gives Mississippians a chance to say how we want to invest in the future of our State's children. What we do for our children today paves the way for a brighter tomorrow.
>
> This conference will offer an opportunity for Mississippi's business and community leaders to review the needs of children and youth and to update their knowledge of projects helpful toward building effective citizens. The conference focuses on the joint effort of Mississippi's private and public sectors which influences decisions for children and youth in the workplace, in the local community and in the state. Professional, private and public leaders can work together to create a positive future for Mississippi.

The planning committee suggested a re-direction for the orginal proposed needs assessment focus of the conference. The committee suggested that the conference, like the Presidential Task Force on Private Sector Initiatives, should seek to stimulate the private sector and encourage public and private partnerships in Mississippi for children and youth.

The conference program was planned for three blocks of time, two plenary sessions for participants to receive information and one group session for participant discussion and interaction. The keynote address was offered by the Governor of Mississippi and the luncheon speaker was Atlanta banker, Robert L. Guyton. Twenty-one business, community and professionals served on the program as presidents, speakers, moderators, reporters and recorders. (Note: Due to adverse weather conditions several of the original thirty were unable to attend. The two public policy sessions were cancelled and minor changes in the afternoon plenary session were made.)

The conference was planned for approximately five-hundred participants. Eight-hundred-fifty original letters of invitation were mailed from Governor Winter to business, community and professional leaders. Five-hundred-sixty two replies were returned with three-hundred-thirty-four responded plans to attend the conference. With program persons, children and youth project exhibitors and new registrants we were anticipating four-hundred attendants.

CONFERENCE

As a result of the severe winter storm actual attendance was one-hundred-thirty-five. The business, community and professional participants were from all sections of the State. Based on news articles, verbal and written evaluations and letters received, the conference was successful in having business and community leaders meet together to discuss, as one participant stated, "how the private sector can help children".

The summary report on the group session discussing "Community Services for Children and Youth - Whose Responsibility?" recognized the need for awareness as a first step. As the Federal government has elected to withdraw its role in the partnership with public and private service providers, this session suggested that new partners must be found. The need for awareness is critical and urgent, the report stated. Primary prevention, early intervention and education were suggested as fundamental areas of responsibility. The relationship of benefits to families as they relate to the benefits for the community was stressed. The session report stated that basic needs of families must be met -- food, clothing, shelter and primary health needs, and that education is the foundation upon which we build our lives. In the final analysis, the summary reported that the responsibility begins with every citizen and included the community as a whole: business and local, state and federal governments.

The report for the groups on business and community leaders looks at businesses serving children while making money, reviewed major points given by the presenters and general issues raised by participants. Business speakers expressed that there is a relationship between family sensititve work policy and company productivity. Business investments in the community's well-being can be profitable such as Pitney Bowes land contribution for a neighborhood development in Connecticut and the business-funded Lee County Reading Programs in Tupelo, Mississippi. Some issues raised were:

- What is the priority on children in Mississippi?
- With whom does the responsibility rest? The community? The State? The family?
- Why low corporate responsiveness to families and children?

- How can we develop specific models of corporate and community action?
- How can we better maximize existing resources?

PROCEEDINGS

The conference proceedings will be a twelve page tabloid including pictures, facts, speeches, reports, and other resource information from the conference. The proceedings will be bulk mailed to all persons responding to the conference invitation. Additional copies will be mailed to persons requesting information and responding to pre and post media coverage via the Governor's Toll Free Services Line.

As requested by two of the group sessions, an additional brochure describing a range of child care options for business including tax incentives is now under development, and will be distributed to businesses throughout the state.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the evaluations and letters in response to the conference, the Commission and staff recommend the following further development of the Business and Community Leaders Conference on Children and Youth model:

1. Mini conferences could be conducted in interested communities or regions with technical help from the Commission.
2. A similar statewide conference could be planned 8 or 10 months from now. The cost of the conference could be supported through $5.00 or $7.00 fees with the additional costs being underwritten by several businesses.

M I S S O U R I

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TITLE: "Missouri's Children are Tomorrow's Hope"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference, (5) workshops

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Child Welfare, Education, Health, Juvenile Justice, Mental Health

Recommendations: Yes - extensive

Model Programs: Yes (see Appendix B)

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

"Missouri's Children Are Tomorrow's Hope" was the theme of the two-day State Conference on Children and Youth, convened by Governor Christopher S. Bond, under his sponsorship, in Jefferson City, on December 7, and 8, 1981.

The Conference was planned and executed under the guidance of the Governor's Committee for Children and Youth. Funding for the Conference was made available through a grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services (90 CG 17/01).

Nationally recognized general session speakers addressed the overall Conference goal - that of encouraging the establishment of partnerships - networks - between the public and private sectors to better serve Missouri's children and their families.

Concurrent workshops also featured nationally recognized speakers and discussants. The workshops focused on the whole child, on a continuum, birth to three years, three to six years, six to ten years, and ten to eighteen years. They addressed identified problems and unmet needs in the areas of child welfare, education, health, juvenile justice, and mental health.

Some four hundred Missourians actively participated in the working Conference. They came from all parts of the State; they were parents, high school students, educators, businessmen, lawyers, ministers, social workers, nurses, school board members, child care providers, family service agency staff, juvenile court personnel, legislators, psychologists, doctors, including pediatricians and child psychiatrists, mental health workers and volunteers from many social, civic and church groups.

THE GENERAL SESSIONS

In his opening address to the Conference, the Governor introduced his "Children's Initiatives", a comprehensive budget and legislative proposal designed to strengthen services to children who are served by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Mental Health, and Social Services. He called for: First Year of Life Newsletter for new parents; early childhood developmental screening for children ages one through four; educational guidance to parents of young children to assist them in their role as their child's first teacher in the child's preschool years; home based services for troubled families and their children, such as family therapy, parent aides, homemaker skills training, to allow children to remain in their own homes; foster care monthly payment increases and foster care training for foster parents; incentive subsidy programs for the development of community-based juvenile services in Missouri's forty-three judicial circuits; maternal and child health services for every county, to focus on "at risk" mothers and infants, in an attempt to reduce the infant mortality rate; alcohol/drug abuse youth project to provide services for children and youth who are poly-drug abusers; fetal alcohol syndrome project to educate expectant mothers on the dangers of drinking while pregnant; and the woman's substance abuse program to provide treatment to approximately 4,000 mothers who are alcoholics or substance abusers.

Legislation which would set goals for reducing the number of children in foster care twenty-four months or more and which would mandate dispositional hearings for children in foster care at specified intervals, and which would provide assistance to local school districts for voluntary screening of preschool children to prevent developmental delays, for programs to aid "parents as teachers", and for programs to provide special assistance for developmentally delayed children, was proposed.

The Governor emphasized that the components of his "Children's Initiative" will promote preventive measures which are cost-efficient, less painful to the child and his/her family than are remediation of rehabilitation services, and will strengthen needed children's services. He asked Conference participants to encourage schools to participate in screening programs, that they become involved actively in either helping

to strengthen or in helping community councils for children, and that they support other volunteer programs serving children and their families. He said, "I hope as a result of this Conference we can strengthen our private/public partnership so that as we look back from our future accomplishments we will remember the Children and Youth Conference of 1981 as the turning point for children's services in Missouri."

Dr. Eva Schindler-Rainman, an organizational consultant from Los Angeles in the second general session, challenged Conference participants "to think networking" as they returned to their workshops to formulate recommendations and then to initiate or to join in already existing efforts of networking when they returned home. She emphasized that challenging and mobilizing citizens to action is "perfectly doable". She helped conferees to think about who should be involved - experienced heads; some less experienced, meaning the young who can bring fresh ideas and new enthusiasm; newcomers as well as established residents; members of ethnic, racial, and religious minorities; the handicapped as well as the "well"; the private sector, meaning the voluntary sector, the public sector, meaning agencies and organizations, and the corporate sector. She urged Conference participants that when forming committees or workgroups to leave them "open" so that people can participate freely.

She identified some of the challenges left to the conferees: "to involve rather than to isolate; to welcome differences rather than look for conformity; to act rather than react; to celebrate steps of movement rather than worry about the gap between where you are and where you want to go; to plan rather than to wing it; to create rather than to depend on the way it has always been done; to understand resistance and apathy of the challenge, rather than add insurmountable problems, to be excited, rather than to be depressed overwhelmed."

James J. Lardi, a citizen child advocate and executive director of the Institute for Child Advocacy, Cleveland, challenged the conferees to respond to "A Call to Action", when he spoke to him in the closing general session. He said, in part: "Child advocates should be deeply concerned that in our battle with the economy and new policy directions that we do not make our children the losers. It would be easy. Children do not vote - they have no say in the forming of public policy that can affect them as children and have a direct impact on their functioning in the future as adults. Furthermore, in the clarification and presentation of the causes of problems for children, we, all of us, in the public and private sectors, are going to have to work together toward a more rational determination of the appropirateness of government involvement in the funding and delivery of programs."

"Even within the rational priority setting process, we have to assure ourselves that we really are blending the best of efficiency (which is not a bad word) and effectiveness. In the children's field, the only ultimate evaluation of effectiveness is outcomes for the children. We can no longer leave ourselves in the position of the public and, therefore, also the policymakers, being able to question the necessity for or validity of our work for and with children. We must clean up our own Act. It is still hard to justify more resources when large questions about the effectiveness of past usage of resources continue to be raised.

"If we come to the conclusion that we have straightened up our act, and at that point the funding resources are still severely inadequate for those children's needs which we determined that government was appropriate to serve - what then? Organize like we've never organized before! Children are not just another special interest group. Present our issues clearly to the public and our policymakers - not because jobs depend on it - but because children depend on it. The four characteristics of the most effective child advocates I've ever met are these: outrage; willingness to risk; integrity; and long-term committment. Remember: if the next child in need were your child, what would you want? When would you want it? To what lengths would you go to assure it? The answers to those questions are what we ought to do for all children. The actions are clear. Let us begin now!"

THE WORKSHOPS

The five concurrent workshops on child welfare, education, health, juvenile justice, and mental health provided the opportunity for Conference participants to choose their subject area for direct involvement in the Conference.

The process of recommendation formulation, in each workshop, began with the provision of background information, first from the opening general session, to which Governor Bond spoke, followed by major presentations by well-informed practitioners and volunteers in the particular workshop subject. Next came the evening sessions when "success stories", "promising practices", innovative programs were presented. Dr. Eva Schindler-Rainman then helped the workshop participants to think networking, building partnerships, when she spoke to them in the second general session. Finally, with a day, an evening, and a morning's experience in hand, the workshop participants moved to developing recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS RECOMMENDED THAT ---

CHILD WELFARE:

Prevention: Services be provided to include a range of emergency services; family living education through schools or other resources; a range of treatment services to include day treatment and home based treatment; quality day care; and clearly established criteria to determine when children should be removed from and returned to their own homes, especially in cases of neglect.

Reunification: Services be provided to remediate family dysfunction and reunify families, to include homemaker aides, parent education, parent aides, day treatment, respite care, counseling, and educational programs regarding the value and approach to early, appropriate reunification.

Adoption: Legislation be supported to provide a more uniform system for the protection, reformation, and placement of certain children and to establish an office of child advocacy within the office of the Governor.

EDUCATION:

1. Financial support be provided to school districts for parent education, developmental screening programs, and learning programs for three and four year olds with developmental delays, including assistance to their parents.
2. Local school districts become the catalysts and facilitators to promote community partnerships/coalitions.
3. The State Board of Education work with teacher training institutions and with local school districts to develop training and staff development, focusing on shared roles, relationships, responsibilities of home, school and community.

HEALTH:

1. A state department of health be established, containing an office of maternal, child, and adolescent health.
2 Health education and health promotion be required as a part of the public health curriculum K-12 by 1990; health be included as a part of the Basic Elementary Skills Test, and separate certification for health education teachers, with resources be available for teacher education, in-service training, and curriculum development.
3. The Governor utilize all resources at his disposal, including the media, to inform people of the state about maternal and child health needs.

JUVENILE JUSTICE:

1. There be more appropriate use of present facilities for juveniles, by diverting all status offenders from admission

to secure detention facilities through provision of community-based alternative services by fiscal year 1984; by prohibiting confining of children in adult jails and lock-ups through enforcement of present sanctions; by removing all juvenile offenders from adult jails and lock-ups by fiscal year 1984; and by reducing by twenty-five percent the number of commitments to institutions by providing incentives to encourage community-based treatment.

2. A partnership be developed which involves the juvenile justice system and the community in providing resources which focus on prevention.
3. The Governor and the State Supreme Court sanction the Missouri Juvenile Justice Review Committee to enhance coordination and communication between private and public agencies and the courts and within agencies and the courts.

MENTAL HEALTH:

1. The Governor adopt and implement in 1983 a state slogan - "Non-violence Begins at Home...and Spreads" with a statewide task force being responsible during 1982 to study and implement practical ways to heighten public awareness of non-violent solutions to human relations problems.
2. The Governor appoint a statewide committee of qualified youth and adults to work in concert with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop a curriculum on parenting and family living education for public junior and senior high schools, requiring the course for graduation.
3. The Governor require the Departments of Mental Health, Social Services, and Elementary and Secondary Education to provide a more diverse continuum of services so that appropriate placements in the least restrictive environment can be provided to children and youth.

YOUTH PARTICIPANTS:

1. In the future, all conferences such as the Governor's Conference on Children and Youth which have a direct application on youth and their future, should contain a representation of youth from across the State.
2. Future youth participants should be given enough lead-time before the conference that they could convene local conference groups of their peers to get input from other youth as to the problems and needs of youth in Missouri, thereby providing better representation to the Conference.

M O N T A N A

GOVERNOR TED SCHWINDEN

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TITLE: "Exploring the Headwaters for Children and Youth in the 80's."

FORMAT: (1) Central Conference; Community survey

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Education/Learning, Health/Human Services, Employability, Laws/Rights, Families/Parenting, Government, Community Organizations.

Recommendations: Yes

Model Programs: No

Survey: Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

"Exploring the Headwaters for Children and Youth in the 80's" was the theme for the Montana Governor's White House Conference on Children and Youth activities. The theme was chosen to emphasize the need for education (preventive measures) during the developmental period rather than depending upon costly crisis intervention measures "downstream".

Montana's White House conference activities were organized on a three-pronged thrust: (1) community surveys to discern the children and youth issues of concern throughout the state; (2) a state-level conference serving as a preparatory forum for community action; and (3) localized follow-up activities addressing specific needs and concerns of local areas.

ACHIEVING A BROAD REPRESENTATION OF VIEWS

Recognizing that the varied needs and concerns of families throughout the state could be met only through the input of a cross section of citizens, efforts were made to achieve a broad representation of views through (1) the appointment of the state

steering committee, (2) contacts to religious, civic, professional, youth, and community groups, (3) the selection of county delegates to the conference, and (4) community survey input.

State steering committee. The statewide steering committee appointed by the Governor to direct the conference activities included representation from all geograhic sections of the state, from both rural and urban areas, from the economically depressed regions to Montana's "boom-towns", and from homemakers, businessman, legislators, youth, and professionals working with children and youth through both the public and private sectors. Liaison staff were named to represent the state departments of education (OPI), health and environmental sciences, justice, institutions, social and rehabilitation services, and the Governor's office. To reduce travel costs, the Montana Educational Telecommunications (ETS) was utilized for planning meetings in addition to two centralized meetings of the steering committee.

Selection of Conference Delegates

In order to stimulate participation from throughout Montana, 15¢ per mile round-trip mileage reimbursement was provided for one carload of delegates per county and Indian reservation to attend the state conference. In addition, $15 toward conference lodging expenses was made available for up to two delegates per county checking need for assistance with expenses on their delegate application. Letters were provided for youth delegates to assist in soliciting local support to attend the conference.

Priority was given to the selection of county delegations consisting of one-third youth, one-third professionals working with children and youth, and one-third delegates representing the general public. (See appendix for a copy of the delegate application form.) The conference was open to individuals registering on-site as observers.

Promotion

Letters of announcement were sent to state and/or regional contact people representing youth, religious, service, professional, and community groups. A number of organizations and public agencies used conference promotion articles in their newsletters. News releases were also sent to all weekly and daily newspapers in the state and to all TV and radio stations. However, publicity for conference activities was inadequate in many areas of the state.

CHECKING THE PULSE OF THE COMMUNITY

In response to the Governor's request for conference delegates to "check the pulse of the community" and find out the children and youth issues of concern throughout the state, a community survey was conducted as a major thrust of the conference activities. In early November, each individual

selected as a delegate was mailed a packet of nine community surveys and asked to obtain response from a cross section of youth, educators, social service professionals, health service professionals and the general public.

Who responded to the questionnaire?

The 1084 responses to the community survey instrument represent the opinions of Montanans from 75 percent of the counties in the state. Of the total respondents, 40 percent were males and 60 percent were females. As depicted in Table 2, the vast majority of respondents--91 percent--were Caucasians. Native Americans represented five percent of the sample and all other ethnic groups checked were represented by one percent of the respondents. Three percent of the respondents did not check the ethnic group classification.

Youth aged 18 years and younger represented 23 percent and young adults aged 19-30 represented 16 percent of the respondents. Nearly two-fifths of the respondents were 31-45 years of age and approximately one-fifth were 46-60 years of age. Only two percent were 61 years or older.

Sixty percent of the respondents were married while 29 percent were single and six percent were divorced or widowed. Another six percent did not check their marital status.

Each of the respondents were asked to (a) identify the most critical problem facing children and youth in his/her community, and (b) recommend the most effective action he/she believed could be taken in the community to solve the problem. In addition, each of the 1084 respondents was asked to check the extent to which he/she believed 37 specific children and youth issues were problems in his/her community and the extent to which he/she believed each of the 24 items should be priorities for community action during the 1980's.

What are the problems for children and youth?

Substance abuse was cited by the youth and adults as the most critical problems in the open-ended questions. However, the correlary problems cited most frequently to the open-ended questions were the need for supervised, meaningful activities especially on weekends and during the summer; teenage unemployment, lack of recreational opportunities, and poor communication with adults.

The problems of substance abuse (alcohol and other drugs) by both youth and their parents, the lack of employment opportunities for youth and poor communication between parents and their children were seen as the most critical problems facing children and youth throughout Montana. Over 60 percent

of the respondents identified alcoholism among youth as a major problem in their community. More than one-half of the respondents also identified alcoholism among parents and the availability of and misuse of drugs by high school youth as major problems. The availability of and misuse of drugs by youth of junior high school age and younger was cited as a major problem by more than one-third of the respondents.

Other issues identified as major community problems by 40 percent or more of the respondents included: lack of supervised recreational opportunities for youth, pregnancy among teenage girls, and vandalism in the community.

As depicted in Table 3, the items related to youth were seen as more critical problems than were the issues related to children. However, the problems of child abuse, lack of counseling services for children and youth, lack of supervision of children after school, low self-esteem among children and youth, severe economic hardship among families, and vandalism in the schools were identifed as critical problems by more than one-fourth of the respondents. The problems appeared to be even more extensive among Native Americans.

What children/youth issues are important community priorities?

The respondents were also asked to indicate their feelings about the degree of importance of 24 children and youth issues as priorities for their community in the 1980's.

Parenting skills training to combat drug and alcohol abuse at the middle school and jr. high levels and stronger penalties for drunken driving were cited as community priorities by more than two-thirds of the respondents. More than one-half of the respondents checked the following items as very important: increased employment opportunities for youth, continuing to provide nutritional school lunches, stronger penalties for incidence of child abuse and other domestic violence, stronger penalties for vandalism, and work or restitution programs for youth who commit minor criminal acts (misdemeanors).

As shown in Table 4, over two-thirds of the respondents checked very important or important to all items except the following three: nutrition education programs to help children and youth improve nutritional (food) habits (64.8), expanded day care facilities (46.3), and human sexuality/family life education provided through the churches (64.3).

STATE CONFERENCE HELPED FORMULATE IDEAS FOR ACTION

The state conference held in Helena December 4-5 was organized as an educational forum spotlighting information and resources for community action as well as successful programs throughout

Montana which address the needs of children and youth. Noted rural sociologist, Dr. William M. Smith, Jr. examined the developmental influences on childre and youth in his keynote address: "The Family: Where Streams Begin". The Honorable Ted Schwinden, Governor of Montana, challenged conference participants to put ideas into action at the grass roots level for the benefit of Montana's children and youth. A wide variety of exhibits, workshops and special sessions addressed the following seven major areas of concern: education/learning; health/human services; employability; laws/rights and responsibilities; families/parenting; government; and community organization. (See conference program for a listing of the specific workshops and special interest sessions.)

Broad representation achieved.

Analysis of the demographic composition of registered delegates and observers to the state conference (Table 1) demonstrates achievement of the goal to reach a broad representation of Montanans. Over one-fourth of the participants were 25 years of age or younger with approximately 20 percent 18 years of age or younger. Slightly less than one-fourth were ages 26-35 and nearly one-third were ages 36-55. Males accounted for approximately one-fourth of the delegates and observers.

Nearly one-fourth of the county delegates indicated family incomes of $15,000 or less while one-third indicated family incomes of $20,000 or above. One-third of the county delegates did not indicate income level.

Although conference particpants were predominantly Caucasian, sightly less than 10 percent were Native American.

Conference given "very good" rating.

On a scale of one to five, evaluation respondents rated the state conference a four or "very good". Each of the 43 presentations made at the conference was cited specifically by name one or more times in response to the question, "What presentations were most useful to you for your work and/or community activities?' Conference participants were particularly impressed with the quality of resource people in Montana.

Although there were controversial issues and divergent points of view, all participants were given an opportunity to express their opinions and/or exhibit materials.

Those responding to the evaluation form indicated a variety of plans for utilization of information and/or resources obtained from the conference. (See attachment for complete state conference evaluation summary.)

The following comment was attached to a youth delegate evaluation:

"I think that this conference was excellent for several reasons:

1. because it's nice to be listened to rather than not being paid attention to because you're still young and not out of school yet.
2. it was informative, interesting, realistic, educational, and gave answers and understanding.
3. it gives us all a chance to get many different points of view and comments which helps us put it all into perspective.

These are only a few reasons why I think the Governor's White House Conference on Children and Youth was an excellent conference and is an excellent program to be continued."

Action at the Grass Roots

Although the final chapter of the Montana Governor's White House Conference on Children and Youth remains to be written, plans for follow-up at the community level appear promising. During the conference, each county delegation was given an opportunity to meet together to plan for follow-up activities.

Approximately one-fifth of the congressional appropriation made available to Montana was designated for competitive grants to communities, counties, or multi-county areas. Applications for the localized follow-up activity grants were due just nine days following the closure of the state conference. Eighteen applications representing proposed activities in 41 of the state's 56 counties were received. Requests for funding varied from a low of $150 to a high of $40,250 and the projects proposed were as varied as the dollar request. (See table 5 for a listing of the project applications.) Funding has been established for the top 11 applications as ranked by the reviewers. Four additional project applications will be funded as money is available after all conference bills have been paid. Efforts are being made to aid in identification of alternative sources of funding for the three large grant applications.

The efforts to submit follow-up project applications in such a short time frame was a dramatic demonstration of the positive action generated by the state conference and the importance of even a few hundred dollars in stimulating action at the grass roots. In addition to the proposed projects for conference funding, several communities have reported plans for independent projects. And organizations and/or agencies participating in the state conference report contacts resulting from the state conference for assistance with local projects.

Voluntarism Continued to be Alive in Montana

Montana's White House Conference activities were achieved through the generous contributions of time and other resources for many individuals, organizations and agencies. No honorariums were provided from conference funds for the time and expertise of the 105 Montanans who particpated on the conference program and less than one-half of the participants claimed the minimal expenses provided for their participation. Office space, equipment, artwork, reception refreshments, printed conference folders, publications, "child-power" to assemble conference programs and stuff packets, printing and statistical analysis of the community survey instuments exemplify the vast contributions made to carry out Montana's White House Conference of Children and Youth activities. (See list of contributors, their contribtutions and the certificate of appreciation presented to contributors.)

N E V A D A

GOVERNOR ROBERT LIST

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Youth Services Division
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TITLE: "Expanding Horizons in Child Welfare - Taking Care of More with Less"

FORMAT" (1) Central conference, (40+) workshops; Youth fair.

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Child Abuse and Neglect, Nutrition, Adoption, Foster Care and Placement.

Recommendations: No

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The geography of Nevada is such that the two major metropolitan areas (Las Vegas & Reno) are located four hundred miles apart. These two communities account for over 80% of the State's total population. Because of this we felt that a conference at each location would be the most productive and ultimately cost-effective.

The Youth Services Division does not have sufficient personnel to coordinate the conduct of these conferences, so we decided to contract with a local, community-based service delivery agency in Las Vegas, and with the northern chapter of the State P.T.A. Association in the Reno area. This methodology proved to be extremely beneficial.

The Conference held in Southern Nev. (Las Vegas) was entitled the "Governor's Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect in Conjunction with Nevada's Conference on Children and Youth." The dates were November 4th, 5th and 6th, 1981. This conference was held in the traditional workshop/seminar format and drew predominately professional service delivery staff from throughout the state.

This conference drew approximately 600 persons and consisted of over 40 workshops, seminars and lectures. All participants were asked to complete an evaluation form to be used as an information gathering tool by the conference organizers. The results of the forms received touched on several areas of concern. It came out loud and clear that more information about abuse and neglect is needed by all the people, in the various disciplines. Another common theme was the need for more cooperation and understanding from the criminal courts and their various actors. It was indicated that too many children (victims) are treated poorly, get lost in the proceedings and are almost "punished" for their role in the incident.

Another interesting area of concern was the field of nutrition as it relates to abhorent behavior in children. Many social workers stressed the need for knowledge on the effect of diet and behavior as a casual factor in behavior (in contrast to the commonly accepted learned behavior model).

The subject of adoptions and foster care were raised reflecting concerns about proper training and preparation for acceptance by adoptive and foster parents. The ideas of better case management and follow-up were raised. The notion of the ethics of how much, and what kind of information should be given to foster parents was important to many caseworkers.

Much concern over the "hard to place" child was articulated reflecting degrees of frustration about how to deal with both the youth and the placements.

If I were to summarize the two or three major items in the area of recommendations received they would have to be: (A) increased training utilizing "State-of-the-Art" knowledge and techniques (B) more understanding of agency functions and responsibilities between agencies to encourage the need for increased cooperation, and (C) an awareness by the general public of the problem, the actors, the responsibilities and obligations of various agencies, and of the parent/guardians themselves.

Attached is a flyer and several newspaper articles, all relating to the activities of the Las Vegas Conference.

In the Reno area, we took a totally different approach. The State P.T.A. and the Youth Services Division agreed that we would rather have participation from youth and families over the professional staff worker. To this end it was felt that a "Youth Fair" would provide the most exposure to the community.

It was our feeling that the community needs exposure to the various services offered by private and public agencies. Many parents and youth have problems that they want help with but

don't know where to go for them, or that they are even available. We also felt it would be important to get participation by the youth and the various school districts.

The Fair took place on Saturday, Nov. 21. 1981 in a large shopping center locater in Reno. We had exhibitions from almost every local service delivery agency. There were clowns and balloons for the children and information for the adults and teenagers. There were several workshops set-up for parents and several for youth.

It is very difficult to guess how many people passed by the exhibit area which was open from 10:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. - several estimates were placed at 2-3,000 people.

We asked people to fill-out an information form which wasn't very successful. We did talk to all the people who were sitting at booths and giving workshops for information regarding the kinds of questions and statements that were being made to them. Most people related the frustration of "not knowing where to go" to get help. Others were amazed that there were so many resources available that they have never heard of. We didn't get much input in the area of non-available services. These were mostly related to the needs for low-cost child care and more (better) jobs for women.

At a de-briefing session with the P.T.A. members who participated, it was agreed that a presentation be made to the Board of Directors of the State P.T.A. for their information. This was done during the middle of February. As a result the P.T.A. has obligated itself to the presentation of two such children/youth and family Fairs for the following year. One to be done again in Reno and the other in Las Vegas. They will solicit funds and donations and have already been provided space at a larger Reno mall and in conjunction with the malls "back to school" sales.

N E W H A M P S H I R E

GOVERNOR HUGH J. GALLEN

CONTACT PERSON: Ms. Judith Ryan, Director
Comprehensive Children and Youth Project
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TITLE: "The Changing Picture in Childrens and Youth Services - A Look Beyond the Block Grants"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference, (9) workshops

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Health, Child Abuse, Placement, Education, Employment, Volunteerism, Delivery Systems, Block Grants and Budget Cutbacks, Special Education

Recommendations: Yes

Model Programs: Yes (see appendix B)

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

"The Changing Picture in Children and Youth Services: A Look Beyond the Block Grants" was sponsored by Governor Hugh J. Gallen, the State of New Hampshire Comprehensive Children and Youth Project, and 14 dedicated individuals representing the State legislature, the Judiciary, the business sector, religious affiliations, child-serving agencies and academia.

Over 400 child advocates, state and local decision makers, legislators and parents registered for the conference. The goals of the two-day session, held on December 3 and 4, 1981, were to create public awareness of and build a constitutency for the needs of the state's young people, and to develop initial recommendations for legislative or administrative action. The theme of the Conference was determined by the recently mandated "block grants" for children and youth related programs and simultaneous, severe cutbacks in those resources. The agenda featured keynote speakers; workshops; a dramatic/musical presentation by Arti-Culture, a troupe of youth performers; films and an information-sharing exhibit with displays created by twenty state and national youth organizations, agencies and schools.

As an introduction to the Conference, the publication, "A Piece of Childhood: Notes on Children in New Hampshire" was published describing the status and needs of the state's young people. The booklet contains resourceful information indentifying some of the most critical problems facing the State's children and youth. Categories of concern include home environment, child care, health, special needs, youth in crisis and education, all of which were addressed by Conference participants.

Keynote speeches were delivered by Governor Hugh Gallen; Ira Schwartz, Research Fellow, University of Minnesota and former Director, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Department of Justice; and Jule Sugarman, President and Managing Director, Human Resources Information Center, McLean, Virginia.

The Governor articulated his commitment to the needs of the State's young people, as demonstrated by:

- the creation of the Comprehensive Children and Youth Project
- legislation introduced in the last session of the General Court to consolidate services for youth into a more efficient structure, and
- twelve community pilot projects funded throughout the state to serve children and their families.

Governor Gallen stated that if vulnerable children are to be protected in these difficult times, advocates have a "responsibility to build new partnerships which can focus the political process on the best interests of children and youth."

Mr. Schwartz emphasized the need for states to generate plans to restructure the present service delivery systems for children--mental health, child welfare and juvenile justice--because the blending of these systems has led to rising costs and inappropriate services for children and their families. He stated that the ultimate savings in resources would pale in comparison to the "lower cost in terms of human misery."

Mr. Sugarman discussed the present shift from Federal management and funding of human services to a state and/or private sector responsibility, and advised New Hampshire that now is the time to organize a "political constituency" for children and youth. He advised child advocates to become more politically active, and New Hampshire to enlarge upon its "long tradition of community support" to develop creative ways of meeting the needs of its youth.

Nine workshops were developed by over fifty individuals who volunteered their time and expertise over a three-month planning process to propose ideas, compile data, offer recommendations, and structure formats. Sixty panelists presented information at the workshops, generating a healthy interaction and discussion of problems and solutions, leading to a commitment from many individuals to carry forward on matters of mutual concerns.

The workshops and their themes are as follows:

Residential Placement: Improving a Dysfunctional System and Introducing A Promised Alternative

Three areas of major concern were addressed in this workshop: the need for good, early permanency planning for youth with serious problems; lack of coordination among units of state government responsible for the welfare of children; and the need for high quality, low cost treatment through an In-Home Project of family intervention.

Joining Forces for Child Health: Public and Private Providers Working Together to Improve the Child Health System

This workshop was planned to address the following questions: how should the state determine which services and children are the responsibility of the public health system; how should public health services be funded and delivered; what is the role of the private health provider; and how can public and private providers work together.

Providing Family Services Through Community Partnerships: Getting Off the Ground in New Hampshire

The increasingly complex social problem of who cares for the children of working parents was the subject of this workshop. The primary issue discussed concerned the need to establish linkages between child care providers for whom Federal cutbacks in social service funds have created financial difficulties, and industry, to develop family-oriented personnel policies such as employer sponsored day care and flextime.

Youth Entrepreneurships: Alternative Job Solutions

The presentations provided a comprehensive view of employment problems facing youth, and the dilemma of social service programs attempting to combat them with diminished financial resources. This information provided a framework for consideration of youth entrepreneurships, defined as youth operated business that have been planned, established and run by youth as a means of enhancing employability skills or creating jobs which can be sustained in order to keep the business self-sufficient.

Children and Youth Needing Secure Care: What Are the Alternatives?

This workshop was structured to present information on New Hampshire's secure care system for children and adolescents (the New Hampshire Youth Development Center and the Child and Adolescent Unit of New Hampshire Hospital) and to provide an overview of secure care issues and trends from a national perspective.

Educational Opportunities for Children and New Hampshire Taxes: What is Their Relationship?

This workshop presented results of a study which found that New Hampshire children, fortunate enough to live in towns which contain highly productive sources of property tax revenues, have far more educational opportunities than children who attend schools supported by property-poor towns. The result is glaring inequity for students as well as taxpayers.

Special Education in New Hampshire: A Five-Year Perspective

A report entitled "Special Education in New Hampshire: A Five Year Perspective" was the focus of this workshop, which addressed the status of special education in New Hampshire and discussed options for the future.

Bringing Our Kids Back: A Continuum of Care for Emotionally Disturbed Children in New Hampshire

The workshop discussed out-of-state placements of emotionally disturbed New Hampshire children. Beyond the tremendous financial burdens of such placements, the following concerns were presented: the lack of monitoring; distance from families, friends and community; lack of family involvement in a child's treatment; and lack of liaison with the public schools.

Volunteers: The Alternative Resource

The workshop focused on the changing nature of volunteerism, and its importance in light of diminished government resources. Programs were advised to broaden their vision and techniques to utilize volunteer services available from a variety of population groups. Development of marketing and recruitment strategies was seen as crucial. Particular emphasis was placed on the management of volunteers.

Evaluation of the Conference was two-fold. First, each Conference packet contained a form on which participants could indicate their desire to be involved in activities generated by the two-day session. About 15 percent completed the form, selecting one or more areas of interest. (This figure does not include prior commitments made by many Planning Committee members and panelists). Secondly, a random sample of participants were asked to complete an evaluation form. Of the 44 individuals polled, about two-thirds felt the Conference met their expectations to a moderate or high degree.

Governor Hugh J. Gallen, as part of his commitment to the issues discussed at the Conference, asked that a final report be shared with state department heads and the General Court in an effort to promote responses to Conference recommendations and build upon interagency alliances. Plans are underway to form a core group at the state level of those who indicated their interest, during the Conference process, in working to advocate for children's needs.

Following each New England state's Conference, a regional program was held in Massachusetts in February, 1982, entitled, "Effects of the New Federalism on Policies for Children and Families in New England." Representatives from the six states participated in sessions which identified and examined public policies affecting children and youth.

N E W J E R S E Y

GOVERNOR THOMAS H. KEAN

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New Jersey Commission on Childrens Services
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Title: "A Call for Action to Create a Caring Community for Our Children and Ourselves"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference, (11) workshops

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Education - service delivery, planning, coordination; Employment- training; Institutionalization of Minorities; Prevention; Current Budget Cuts and the "New Federalism"; Juvenile Justice; Adolesence; Community Involvement; Health Prevention.

Recommendation: Yes

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I. INTRODUCTION

The New Jersey Governor's Conference on Children and Youth was held on December 7, 1981 as a forum for community review of the Commission on Children's Services' preliminary findings in its study of state programs for children and families. Nearly 400 community members participated in the Conference deliberations.

Established by the Legislature in 1979, the Commission has conducted fact-finding activities to review the service-delivery system and to identify methods of improving it. The Commission also works to promote community-based services that strengthen families, to involve community members in planning services, and to foster cooperation among agencies that serve children and families.

II. THE COMMISSION'S FINDINGS

The major focus of the Commission's findings (see appendix) is on assessing the efficiency of the existing service-delivery system. The findings examine the delivery system of the socio-economic environment in which New Jersey's children develop. From this perspective, it is clear that disadvantaged and minority children are an especially vulnerable population whose needs are not being met adequately by the current service-delivery system.

Other highlights of the preliminary findings, which parallel issues identified as priorities by the Federal Office of Human Development Services, are as follows.

1. Lack of equal opportunity in education

New Jersey's current system for financing the state's 2,500 schools has fostered grave disparities in expenditures for education between affluent and poor communities. These disparities operate to the detriment of children in poor communities, where the majority of the state's minority children live.

2. Lack of structure in services

The current service-delivery system, with more than 26 state divisions and thousands of local agencies, does not have a focus for coordination of services at the state or local level and promotes gaps and duplications in services. The system is not unified by a policy emphasizing a family-centered approach and there are insufficient community-based support services to maintain children in their own homes.

3. Lack of comprehensive planning

There is no mechanism at the state level for comprehensive planning of services for children across state-agency lines. Current planning efforts do not significantly involve consumers, and efforts to ensure coordination among state and local agencies are impeded by the absence of planning mechanisms at the local level.

4. Lack of vocational and job-training programs

Existing vocational and job-training programs are not sufficient to prepare youngsters to enter today's tight job market.

5. High rates of placing Black and Hispanic children out of their homes and into restrictive institutions

Minority children are a major proportion of children who are placed out of their homes by public agencies, and they are far more likely than white children to be placed in the most restrictive institutions. Although minority children are only 37 percent of all youth arrested for serious offenses, the overwhelming majority of the population in state secure detention centers and correctional institutions are Black and Hispanic.

III. THE CONFERENCE

The Commission called the Conference on Children and Youth so the public could review these findings, recommend ways to improve services, and start a network to carry out the recommendations. In the interest of obtaining broad public input about community concerns, the Commission sent a pre-conference questionnaire (see the Appendix) to over 2,000 individuals. The issues raised by the respondents were incorporated into the Conference agenda, and 400 people were selected to attend the Conference. Participants came from each of the 21 counties (according to an AFDC-child-per-county formula, with a minimum of five from each county); from diverse socio-economic, racial, and linguistic backgrounds; from government, business, agencies, child advocacy, the media, health and human service agencies, and youth groups.

At the morning workshops, the Commission presented its findings (see the appendix) and some model programs as options in building a more effective system. Volunteers from all over the state helped with technical matters, and workshop leaders specially trained by the New Jersey Junior Leagues encouraged discussion and derived three recommendation from each group. In afternoon workshops, people regrouped by county and considered how the findings and recommmendations would fit the needs of the children and the resources in their counties.

IV. THE CONFERENCE OUTCOME

Recommendations developed by the morning workshop participants called for changes in the service-delivery system and include some concepts that parallel those proposed by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services. This is a summary of the major recommendations. (See the appendix for a complete set.)

Workshop 1. Eliminating Duplications and Gaps in Services
Develop comprehensive county planning under one authority to coordinate the implementation of state-funded programs at the local level. The plan should minimize state-operated direct services; provide for evaluation of programs and for line-staff accountability; and call for a central intake system that uses the case-manager system. The state's role should be limited to setting policy for block grants; giving technical assistance, monitoring programs, and maintaining state facilities.

Workshop 2. Prevention--Front-End Services
Establish local councils to plan and coordinate services for youth, such as the State Community Organization Program's community coalition. Choose a person in each legislative district to review and lobby for legislation to prevent children's problems. The county should develop a network of experts for its communities, to be directed by a State Prevention Coordinator.

Workshop 3. Community Participation in Deciding What Services and for Whom

Develop a formal mechanism (with continuity and "clout") to encourage state, county, and local consumer groups to work with all those who provide children's services. A state-wide comprehensive planning group ought to assess services needs continually and decide the role of professionals and of consumers in providing services. Funding for services should reflect local priorities and needs.

Workshop 4. Providing a Continuum of Care for Children's through Community-Based Services

Establish a central intake for all children's services, with consultation and referral to services in the community. Communities should become more involved in planning and coordinating services for children. There should be intervention on primary- and secondary-school levels (to deal with real problems).

Workshop 5. The Lost Years of Adolescence

Develop a systems-approach to all aspects of adolescent life through state-wide consolidation of programs and networks. Budgets should prefer proven preventive and other direct-service programs.

Workshop 6. Unmet Needs of Black and Hispanic Children

Give responsibility for services to community-based organizations. All agencies should reach out to youth to promote self-images. Family-life programs in the public schools should be expanded to courses in the development of living skills.

Workshop 7. Ensuring the Rights of Children in the Light of the Current Budget Cuts and the New Federalism

Set forth a Children's Bill of Rights and make local, state, and Federal Government responsible for assuring equality of opportunity. The Commission should recommend where the state budget should offset Federal budget cuts. In implementing state fundings, there should be a moratorium on repealing regulations. A commission should be created to review regulations; parents and citizens should be guaranteed an active place in the allocation of block grants; and outside people should evaluate programs and audit expenditures. The Commission should urge that Federal money be turned from the military to full employment, to adequate and constitutional financing of schools, and to preventive services in health, nutrition, and the education of parents. The Commission should urge that there be a continuing mechanism for protecting the rights of children. Outside auditors should be required for fiscal and programming review.

Workshop 8. Health--The Holistic Approach

Mandate an outside agency, such as a university, to design a unified service-delivery system, and give the agency

long-term funds from public and private sources to monitor and evaluate the system. Form county or local-community groups to plan human services, identify problems, set goals, plan, and coordinate delivery of human services, and see that the groups are coordinated at regional and state levels. An Office on Youth, made up of people from state departments, ought to work with all outside agencies to coordinate programs.

Workshop 9. Education: The School as a Community Resource
Coordinate schools with public and private agencies. Make parents welcome at school for their opinions and as partners in education, and plan activities for children that coincide with meetings of the parents. Use the schools as a community resource.

Workshop 10. Juvenile Justice is Not the End of the Line
Abolish Juvenile Justice and Youth and Family Services; set up a state network, including facilities for emotionally-disturbed children. Develop a Youth Services Commission for municipalities, counties, and the state. Prevent delinquency by offering incentives in a state-wide program.

Workshop 11. Employment Opportunities
Give basic and vocational education in youth-detention centers; use block-grant funds to coordinate training and employment services; and stress "special education," English skills, and the needs of minority youth. Provide drop-outs with counseling, schooling for the general education diploma, job programs, and recreation. There should be a Governor's Commission on Youth Employment and Training.

This afternoon workshop participants, organized by county, used the session to network with others from their county and identify county issues for future action. Most participants wanted to meet again. In fact, one group has already met again, four groups set dates to meet early this year, and five groups have added these meetings to councils that meet in their counties now.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

The Conference provided community members with an overview of state programs for children, stimulated constructive debate on service issues, and generated recommendations for changes in the service-delivery system. Participants' evaluations of the Conference were overwhelmingly positive, and they called for future state-wide and county forums to discuss issues that affect children and their families. More than 150 participants reported an interest in working with the Commission on state-wide and county efforts to improve services for children.

The Commission is now completing its final report and incorporating the views of Conference participants. After completion of the report, the Commission will work to involve community members in the implementation of recommendations for changes in programs for children and families.

N E W M E X I C O

GOVERNOR BRUCE KING

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TITLE: "Alternate Systems for Youth - Communication and School"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference; (6) Regional conferences

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Family Problems, Employment, Alientation, Policy Making, Education, Substance Abuse, Juvenile Justice.

Recommendations: Yes

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The New Mexico Youth in the 80's conferences have been completed. Following is a short executive summary of the six regional and one statewide conference held between November 3, 1981 and December 4, 1981 in our state. Regional conferences were held in Albuquerque, Farmington, Las Cruces, Roswell, Santa Fe and Taos. The statewide conference was held in Albuquerque.

PLANNING

On September 1, 1981, New Mexico's First Lady Alice King, Coordinator of the conferences, hired Pat Simmons as Director of the project. Ms. Simmons' first task was to compile a list of issues and concerns relevant to New Mexico's youth. A statewide steering committee was formed composed of representatives of the departments that serve children and youth, youth and private citizens. By October 1, regional advisory committees were formed. The most important job of the regional committees was selection of two or three topical areas to assure a focus appropriate to each area. Additionally, committees assisted in procurement of facilities; identification of youth leadership trainees; promotion; and the 101 details inherent in this

ambitious project. (Attachment 1 gives the conference location, theme, date and topical areas. Attachment 2 is a typical conference day agenda.)

Youth leadership training was conducted in each region on the day preceding the conference. The trainees assumed most of the responsibility for the facilitation of the conference and the preparation of conference reports.

The regional conferences drew over 1200 persons and the statewide conference was attended by over 400 persons of which 70% were under the age of 18. The attendance and commitment of First Lady Alice King guaranteed extensive media coverage statewide which gave immeasurable attention to children and youth issues.

TOPICAL AREAS - YOUTH CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Following is a list of issues and concerns identified at the conferences and recommendations on alleviation of problems. It should be noted that all of the problems and solutions were identified by young people and should illustrate that not only can the young identify their problems but have the creativity and insight into solutions.

Family Problems

Most of the youth are concerned about divorce,lack of communication between adults and children, violence, abuse and neglect, and the difficulties of single parenting, step-parenting and family break-up. Following is a list of suggestions they voiced:

1. Educators should be trained to intervene and assist with families in crisis.
2. There should be mandatory counseling before marriage and family counseling during the divorce process.
3. There should be an information network where young people can go for help when their family is in trouble.
4. Families need to improve communication. The children should assume responsibilities for a single parent so they can have more time together.
5. Children and parents need to compromise and children's opinions should be treated with respect.
6. Courses in parenting should be mandatory in schools and begin at the elementary level.
7. Both the abused children and the abusing parents need to better understand their rights and responsibilities under the law.
8. Youth should offer each other support in abusive situations.
9. Abusers should be counseled, not incarcerated.
10. Stress management classes should be offered as abuse prevention.

11. Community centers and churches should play a greater role in preventing family break-up and assisting families in crisis.
12. Relatives should serve as role models for children with one parent.
13. Children should openly express feelings to a potential step-parent or step-parent to avoid mis-communication.

Employment

Repeatedly, in each conference, whether chosen as a focal point or not, young people expressed their frustration over the lack of jobs, appropriate training for employment, and need for adult advice. They had no problem linking unemployment with family problems, drug abuse and delinquency. They have very strong feelings about their needs:

1. Much improved counseling in employment skills and job prospects from school counselors
2. They would like a drop-in center or place to go to be advised about jobs.
3. It was suggested the CETA-like programs be re-funded and that the income eligibility portion be dropped so that all youth have an opportunity to work.
4. Youths should volunteer to work for non-profit or private organizations, and private businesses, in orde to gain skills and a work history.
5. They favor a sub-minimum wage until they prove they can work, and increased tax breaks so that businesses will hire the young.
6. DECA and OEA programs should be greatly expanded.

Alienation of Youth

Young people feel a communication gap with each other and adult society. They fe[illegible] discriminated against because of age and realize tha[illegible] they discriminate against each other because of such things as ethnic background and religion. Following are their suggestions:

1. In communities where there is conflict between students from different schools, institute exchange days for all students, not just student leaders.
2. Provide classes in school where students from different backgrounds can discuss their respective culture or religion in a safe environment.
3. They urged people to take time to talk to each other, especially for the young to talk to their parents and the elderly.
4. Adults must allow the young to voice opinions.
5. Students and faculty should get together in school to discuss their concerns and what can be done about them.

Youth and Policy Making

Most of the young people felt they had no opportunity to provide input into laws and policies that affected them and suggested the following:

1. Students should be represented at faculty meetings.
2. There should be either a student advisory board to the regular school board or a youth representative on the school board and other policy-making bodies.
3. Youth need to be better advised about their rights and responsibilities. They should have an opportunity to offer input before a law or policy that affects them is enacted.
4. Students should have an opportunity to share their concerns with legislators and/or have a student representative at the Legislature.
5. Students and teachers should meet to discuss school policies and practices.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse

The workshops/discussions group most attended at all the conferences were the ones offered on alcohol and drug abuse. Along with unemployment, this ranks high on their list of concerns. They made these observations:

1. If alcohol is legal, marijuana should be also. They feel it poses a much greater threat to society.
2. Schools should offer mandatory classes on substance abuse taught by ex-addicts or peers.
3. Peers who use drugs should be avoided.
4. Young people should tell peers if they see a drug problem developing.
5. Employment and recreational opportunities will prevent abuse.
6. They want tighter laws on distribution of alcohol and against drug pushers.
7. Liquor should be sold only in liquor stores.

Schools

Students do not feel they are being adequately prepared for the real world. They think there is disparity of treatment in schools. They are especially critical of school counselors. Following are ideas they propose to deal with problems:

1. Get teachers who don't care out of the schools. Develop a review process to override the tenure policy that keeps some ineffective teachers in schools.
2. School counselors should give more attention to non-college bound students.

3. School counselors should be better prepared to advise college-bound students regarding college requirements.
4. Develop a review process for school counselors.
5. They want to see school counselors when they aren't in trouble.
6. Counselors should help students with personal problems in addition to class changes.
7. They want stronger requirements for graduation including more Math and English.
8. Counselors should be prepared with job prospects in their own communities to better advise students who plan to stay there.
9. There should be career days that deal with a much broader range of potential occupations.
10. Schools should be more career-oriented during the last two years.
11. They want vocational education and technical schools.
12. Students who fail should not be passed.
13. Students who graduate should have at least one marketable skill, such as typing.
14. Students should not be criticized or disciplined in front of peers.
15. Discipline should be administered after school hours.
16. Punishment by suspension is inappropriate - hurts education.
17. Students and parents need to be better informed about the student's rights and responsibilities.
18. Education must not be disrupted by disruptive students.
19. Educational opportunities must be opened to behaviorally disturbed.
20. Schools should be opened to more community use.

Youth in Trouble

Although young people cited their need to have some independence, they are cognizant of the need for adult support when they're having problems. Many do not know where to go for help. These are the ideas as to how to situation can be improved:

1. Parents should not over-react to the problems of their children so the children can continue to bring problems to them.
2. Parents should confront the young if they suspect susbstance abuse.
3. Students should go to their clergyman for help with problems.
4. Young people should offer each other support.
5. Parents and teachers should have drug education so they can rationally handle problems.
6. All communities should have a hotline or drop-in center where young people can go for help.
7. The anonymity of the troubled young should be protected.

8. School assemblies should be held at which information on resources is offered.
9. Radio and television stations should run public service annoucements during prime time to advise the young of community resources.
10. There should be young counselors or peer counselors in school because students can better relate to them.

CLOSING COMMENTS

On January 11, 1982, six of the youth facilitators representing the areas in which conferences were held gave a report before a special session of the New Mexico Legislature. Also in attendance were the Secretaries of the Human Services and Health and Environment Departments. The presentation was outstanding and the policy-makers asked questions for about 45 minutes after the 30-minute report. They have also requested copies of the presentation and made a commitment to take the recommendations seriously during the law-making process. (The regular session of the Legislature has been convened.) A video-tape was also made which will be offered to New Mexico's public service channel.

During this presentation and at every stage in the project, policy-makers came and listened and went away impressed at the skills with which these young people articulated their concerns. It should be noted that the youth facilitators represented a wide-range of backgrounds not only ethnically but also socio-economic. Some were student leaders and some were in residence in programs for troubled youth. They all learned not only to care about each other, but to care about matters affecting all young people.

During New Mexico Youth in the 80's, we gave the young the floor. We are keenly aware of the importance of what they had to say. Our final task will be to assure that their recommendations are not taken lightly.

N E W Y O R K

GOVERNOR HUGH L. CAREY

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TITLE: "Youth Leadership - Involvement for the Future"

FORMAT: (3) Local affiliation events; (21) Community conferences; (10) Specialized institutes.

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Health, Foster Care, Education, Youth Employment, Child Care, Child Sexual Abuse and Neglect, Latch-Key Children, Juvenile Justice, Youth Services, Public/ Private Sector Cooperation, Peer Counseling, Single-Parent Family, Community Organizations, Services and Children of Alcoholic Parents, Adolescent Pregnancy.

Recommendations: Yes - extensive

Model Programs: Yes (see Appendix B)

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following the Department of Health and Human Services' announcement of its plans to support state-level activities, the Council on Children and Families, which had been designated as the agency to coordinate New York State's participation in the White House Conference, convened an ad hoc Committee, consisting of representatives from voluntary groups and appropriate state agencies to develop plans for the State. The Council had received a state appropriation of $50,000 to support New York's participation in the national conference. These funds, combined with the $98,034 of Federal funds, for which the State became eligible, made a total of $148,034 available for state-level activities.

During the discussions of the ad hoc planning Committee, it became clear that one statewide conference could not address the entire range of children and youth services issues within the State. An additional consideration, which influened the decision not to hold a single statewide conference, was the need, voiced

by Council staff and others on the ad hoc Committee, to emphasize youth involvement and youth participation. The issue of increasing meaningful youth involvement in community life has been addressed only intermittently since being raised at the New York State Governor's Conference on Youth at the Biltmore Hotel in 1968 and the White House Conference on Youth held in Estes Park, Colorado in 1971. While the chance to hold a conference in New York provided an opportunity to address this theme in a fresh and positive manner, it was feared that this issue might not receive the attention and focus it required at a single statewide meeting.

Based on these factors, New York State submitted a plan to the Department of Health and Human Services for a series of local events and community conferences to be sponsored by schools, church groups, youth service organizations, PTA's and Youth Bureaus to address children and youth concerns and issues. Initially, two types of events were envisioned: Local events and Community Conferences. With Council approval, Local Event sponsors would be allowed to use the Conference name (New York State Conference on Children and Youth) and a logo developed specifically for the Conference to help promote and publicize local efforts addressing children and youth concerns. No funding for these events would be provided. The purpose of Local Event Affiliation would be to provide an opportunity for broad community-level participation in the Conference.

Community Conferences, on the other hand, which were to be supported with Federal funds, would focus specifically on the theme of youth involvement and take the form of formal conferences, institutes, town meetings, and youth speak-outs.

As planning progressed, the Conference design was expanded. In the original Conference design, no provision was made for workshops or seminars on specific issues in the children or youth services fields. As the Council began to discuss the Conference plan with potential members of the formal Advisory Committee, the necessity for expanding the Conference design to include deliberations on specific issues became clear. As a result, a series of Specialized Institutes on high priority issues and problems were included as part of the Conference design.

Thus, the final design for the Conference included three levels of activity: Local Event Affiliation, Community Conferences on Youth Leadership Development, and Specialized Institutes. Requests for Participation and Requests for Proposals for the three levels of activity were developed. From among over 120 applications submitted, the Council approved three Local Events and provided funding for 21 Community Conferences and 10 Specialized Institues.

An analysis of the makeup of the Community Conference and Institute sponsors shows that the major objectives for the New York State Conference, including encouraging public/private cooperation, involving a wide range of communities, addressing high priority problems affecting children and youth, and reaching out to involve youth who are not currently positively involved in the community, have been met.

Thirty-nine percent (39%) of the Community Conferences have joint public private sponsorship, while 44% are sponsored by the private sector, and 17% are sponsored solely by a public agency. Of the 21 sponsors, 12 are New York City based, 2 are on Long Island, and 7 represent upstate communities. The upstate conferences are divided between 4 urban and 3 rural communities. Fifty percent (50%) of the agencies funded could be categorized and grassroots agencies which geographically, ethnically, and culturally represent the communities and youth they serve. The remaining agencies (50%) are traditional youth-service, child welfare, or public agencies.

A similar analysis of the Specialized Institute sponsors and topics shows that these specialized conferences address high priority problems or issues which affect a significant portion of the children and youth at risk in New York. The analysis also shows that the objectives of encouraging public/private cooperation and insuring a statewide focus for these events have also been met.

The issues addressed by the Institutes are: children's health in foster care; health, education, and employment services for teenage parents; youth in jail; services for children of alcoholic parents; youth unemployment; youth services; child care; latch-key children; and sexual abuse in the family. Half of the Institutes (5) have joint public/private sponsorship, four have private agency sponsorship, and one has public agency sponsorship.

As with each of the seven White House Conferences on Children and Youth held to date, the 1981-2 New York State Conference has served to initiate a period of study, reexamination, analysis, and action focusing upon the needs of children and youth. This Conference, however, is unique inasmuch as it presented an opportunity to assist children and youth in a new way by tailoring Conference activities to the specific issues, localities, and populations represented in New York State.

The degree of acceptance and enthusiasm with which the Conference design was received throughout New York State has lead the Council to believe that the initial decisions regarding the Conference design were timely and correct. Although the process of holding a series of events, instead of one central event, was more complex and time consuming, the benefits have

far outweighted the problems. Many more New Yorker's, including young people, were able to participate than if one, or even two, central conferences had been held. Also, a diverse cross section of the different communities in the State have been included. Finally, professionals and citizens with special interest areas were able to shape how the Conference would address their concerns and were empowered by the Conference to develop plans and strategies for future activities specifically adapted to their areas of concern.

The New York State Conference on Children and Youth has been an historic opportunity to pursue the ideal of improving American life for our young citizens, which the White House Conferences on Children and Youth have symbolized and embodied since 1909.

N O R T H C A R O L I N A

GOVERNOR JAMES B. HUNT, JR.

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Governor's Office of Citizen Affairs (and)
Ms. Florrie Glasser, Policy Advisor
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TITLE: "A Public and Private Sector Forum"

FORMAT: (1)Central conference

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Employment, Education, Child Care, Child Safety, Working Parents, Family Economics and Stability, Health, Private/Public Cooperation, Training, Sexual Abuse, Disability, Juvenile Justice, Volenteerism, Adolescent Pregnancy.

Recommendations: Yes - extensive

Model Programs: Yes (See appendix B)

Survey: Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

North Carolina is the tenth most populous state in the Union. Nearly one-third of its six million inhabitants today are under the age of 20, with pre-schoolers being the fastest growing segment within this child population. Indications are that neither the number of children in North Carolina nor their percentage of the total state population will diminish during this century.

North Carolinians can be proud that the welfare of their children has improved dramatically during the last decade. Significant gains have been made on many fronts, especially in health and education.

However, while pride is appropriate, satisfaction is not. We can be proud, but not satisfied. There are still too many

children reared in poverty, too many do not live to celebrate their first birthday, and too many drop out of school before learning the basic skills needed to acquire a good job.

To understand North Carolina's activities relative to the White House Conference on Children and Youth, one must be cognizant of the philosophy underlying these activities. It was concluded that sufficient studies had already been done regarding the needs of children and youth. The time had come for action on those needs rather than more studies. Furthermore, in light of the anticipated direction of Federal government priorities, it was determined that the most appropriate use of available funds would be to focus on private programs which were already meeting the needs of certain groups of children and youth. It was deemed counterproductive to spend inordinate amounts of time and energy formulating recommendations to either the Federal or State governments.

Finally, it was believed that in the absence of Federal and State programs, needs would have to be met on a local level. Looking to Washington, D.C. or Raleigh for total funding and programming is both unrealistic and unwise.

Building on these philosophical principles, North Carolina designed four components of its White House Conference on Children and Youth.

These components are as follows:

1. Statewide Conference

A statewide conference was conducted December 2, 1981 in Raleigh. Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. was the keynote speaker. Following his presentation, the 410 invited participants viewed a slide/tape program entitled "Proud But Not Satisfied" (see section 2). Following this plenary session, the participants divided into two specialized conferences.

A. Business Roundtable

Governor Hunt invited 50 outstanding persons from business/industry and Chambers of Commerce to attend this roundtable. Leadership was provided by the Governor, the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce, businessmen and women, legislators, and resource persons across the State of North Carolina as well as New York and Texas. All of the speakers were affiliated with major North Carolina business firms.

The major areas addressed were Providing Employment Opportunities for Youth; Providing Educational Opportunities for Children; Creating Child Care

Programs for Employees; Protecting the Lives of Children -- Infant Seat Restraints; Employee Assistant Programs for Working Parents and Fringe Benefits for Working Parents.

Many businesses and Chambers of Commerce are already heavily involved in protecting and enriching the lives of children. These positive models were described in detail by Chamber and business representatives.

B. Public and Private Sector Forum

The North Carolina Conference for Social Service, a non-profit organization, was asked to play a significant role in the 1950, 1960, and 1970 White House Conferences on Children and Youth. Following this tradition and building on the President's emphasis upon the private sector, Governor Hunt asked this organization to convene leaders from the major volunteer organizations in North Carolina, county Involvement Councils, community-based alternative task forces and State government. Approximately 360 persons attended this forum.

The focus was twofold. First, exemplary private sector programs were highlighted. These programs dealt with education, day care, juvenile delinquency, health, abuse and adolescent pregnancy.

The second focus was a three-hour training session equipping participants to return to their respective counties (55 counties were represented) and convene county follow up conferences on the local needs of their children and youth. An exhibit area was available at this forum and 20 organizations displayed their goods and services.

2. Slide/Tape Presentation

A private contractor produced a 21 minute slide/tape regarding the children and youth of North Carolina and how their needs are being met by the private sector. Activities by churches, civic organizations, service clubs, and business/industry were accentuated. The needs and responses were organized around the topics of Education, Day Care, Health, and Family.

This slide/tape is available for distribution through the State library system. Organizations across the state are utilizing this slide/tape program for educational and motivational purposes.

To date, over 50 requests have been made for this slide/tape program and that number will escalate with publicity. This

component will allow the emphasis upon children and youth to be carried forward continually rather than dying with the adjournment of a conference.

3. Statewide Report

A contract was made with the Center for Urban Affairs and Community Services, North Carolina State University, to produce a 28 page document. The purposes of the report are (1) to raise public awareness of the serious problems that many North Carolina children face and (2) to identify, document and applaud existing programs already at work in communities across the State.

The four areas highlighted were family income and stability; day care; health; and education. Seven thousand copies were produced and are being distributed both to the public and private sectors.

To supplement the Statewide report and to recognize the diversity of North Carolina's 100 counties, an individual sheet on each county has been produced. This sheet compares the status of children in that county to the status of children in North Carolina, the South, and Non-South. The selected variables were number of children; percent living in poverty; percent receiving AFDC; percent of women in work force with children at home; motor vehicle deaths of children; infant death rate; number of school dropouts; and rate of juvenile justice cases. This county status report helps each county to assess some of their areas of greatest strength and weakeness. These sheets were inserted into the report and sent to the appopriate counties.

4. Local County Conferences

The co-coordinators strongly believe that a Statewide conference would be beneficial to knowing and meeting the needs of children and youth. However, it was equally felt that unless the enthusiasm a Statewide conference generates can be converted into positive actions at the local level then not much will happen to help children.

Thus, all of North Carolina's activities, i.e., conferences, slide/tape and report, were designed to relate back to local communities.

Nineteen of the twenty Chamber of Commerce directors who participated in the Business Roundtable on Children and Youth intend to convene local conferences, bringing together business leaders to discuss collaborative initiatives in behalf of children and youth. In addition, volunteer organizations will conduct conferences in twenty counties.

The co-coordinators and their respective office are being supportive and involved in these local conferences in a variety of ways.

Following the President's example, each county was encouraged to design their conference in accordance with their own needs, interests and abilities. Again, the emphasis was to be centered on the private sector, as was stated in the philosophy underlying the design of North Carolina's activities.

Conclusion

It should be stated that the co-coordinators received courteous, prompt and efficient help from those on the Federal level assigned this responsiblity, especially Carol Fraser.

It should further be noted that the President is to be commended for making resources available for each State to carry out these activities regarding America's greatest resource-our children and youth.

O H I O

GOVERNOR JAMES A. RHODES

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TITLE: "The Spirit of Volunteerism"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference, (27) workshops.

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Volunteerism - health, employment, recreation, child rearing, abuse and neglect, substance abuse, disability, youth training programs, adolescent pregnancy, foster grandparents, juvenile justice, citizen advisory committees, child care, peer counseling, curriculum development.

Recommendations: Yes

Model Programs: Yes (see appendix B)

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Ohio White House Conference on Children and Youth was held at Deer Creek State Park Lodge on November 13 and 14, 1981. Three hundred thirty-five professionals, volunteers, parents, and young people gathered to attend the conference. Twenty-seven different workshops were presented by 92 professionals and volunteers, showcasing working programs that have proven effective in helping young people and their families. It is hoped the participants returned to their own communities with ideas and knowledge which will facilitate the development of such programs throughout the State.

The conference, planned and presented largely by volunteers, was itself a model of the type of volunteer effort which it sought

to promote. People of all ages and from all segments of Ohio Society cooperated to provide and share meaningful experiences with the potential of widespread application.

The intent of this final report is to disseminate information on the conference and the programs it highlighted to the citizens of Ohio to further facilitate the growth of volunteer support networks for children and families.

PLANNING THE CONFERENCE

In 1909 the first national White House Conference on Children and Youth was convened by President Theodore Roosevelt. Seven conferences have taken place since, the most recent in 1971.

Congress appropriated $3 million for the eighth conference, which was slated for December 1981; however, in April 1981, Secretary of Health and Human Services Richard Schweiker said that the national conference had been cancelled, and announced plans to hold State-level conferences instead. Secretary Schweiker sent letters to the governors indicating that funds would be distributed to the States from the Congressional appropriation to assist them in convening State conferences involving government, private and voluntary organizations, and families. During the week of May 25, each State was notified of the amount if its grant and was given until June 5 to apply.

Governor James A. Rhodes applied for the $72,449 White House Conference grant offered to Ohio and designated the Ohio Department of Public Welfare to convene the Ohio White House Conference on Children and Youth, directing that the conference be for the benefit of the people of Ohio.

During July, the desginated conference coordinators, Mary Turney, David Schwertfager, and Jerry Collamore, organized a planning committee of 24 representatives of State agencies, professional and volunteer groups, parents and youth. While consideration was given to representing individual geographic regions of the State, a concerted effort was made to solicit the participation of persons representing statewide groups and organizations. The resultant committee included representatives of four state government agencies, two state legislators, two young people under age 18, and leaders of 16 Statewide groups with a special interest in children.

On August 13, the planning committee met to organize, hear its charge, and discuss the purpose of the OWHCCY. Consensus was reached that the conference be educational in nature, centered around workshops led by Ohioans to showcase working programs that have proven effective in helping young people and their families. It was also agreed that the conference should showcase the positive things young Ohioans are doing to improve themselves and their communities.

Owing to the tight time frame provided in the Federal grant, the coordinators considered possible dates and sites for the conference, and recommended it be held at Deer Creek State Park Lodge on November 13 and 14, 1981. The coordinators found that the most appropriate sites for such a conference were booked at least a year in advance. In the face of limited alternatives, the committee accepted the coordinator's recommendation. This, in turn, dictated that the number of partcipants be no more than 400.

SELECTING THE PARTICIPANTS

On September 10, the planning comittee met in Columbus to decide how conference participants should be identified and selected. Since the committee had decided to follow an educational model involving a workshop format, and the site had been chosen, the committee established 400 as the maximum number of participants.

Following the educational model, intending to reach a broad spectrum of Ohio's citizenry and communities, the committee specified that the participants be 30% professionals (those paid to work with children and youth), 30% parents and volunteers (with a special interest in children), and 40% children and youth aged 11 through 17. Another priority was to obtain representation from throughout the State.

A number of alternatives were discussed including a lottery, placing applications in newspapers, and soliciting nominations from regional or county agencies. The plan which developed was to request that the county commissioners in Ohio's 88 counties nominate potential participants to be selected by a subcommittee of the OWHCCY planning committee.

On September 21, a package was sent to all county commission offices in the State explaining the purpose of the OWHCCY and requesting that each commission nominate three potential particpants in each of the three categories (professionals, parents/volunteers, and children and youth) from which the committee would select at least one in each category. Counties of more than 200,000 population were asked to submit four nominees in each category. Forms were provided to indicate the information needed from commissioners to complete the selection process. Commissioners were asked to submit nominations by October 9. One week after the mailing, every commission office was contacted by telephone to ensure that each had received the material and to offer assistance with the process.

On September 23, a general news release was sent to all newspapers and radio and television stations in the State announcing the date, site, and purpose of OWHCCY, listing the individuals and groups involved in the planning process and indicating that participants were to be nominated by county commissioners in each county.

On October 14, the committee on participant selection met and decided to invite all those who had been nominated up to that date. Written invitations were extended to nominees on October 21, giving particulars and including a list of workshops. Participants were asked to complete a registration form, including workshop preferences, and return the material to ODPW by October 30.

On November 4, the committee began telephoning alternate nominees whose names had been received after October 14. By November 12, the committee was expecting nearly 400 participants to arrive at Deer Creek State Park Lodge on the following day.

The plannning committee set a date to reconvene in September to finalize decisions on who the conference participants would be and how they would be selected.

Volunteers were requested for working subcommittees on program, logistics, publicity, and finance. These committees were to organize and begin work prior to the next meeting of the full planning committee to be held on September 10.

DEVELOPING THE PROGRAM

The OWHCCY planning committee determined at the August 13 meeting that a program committee be formed and charged with developing a program of workshops showcasing volunteer programs effective in helping children and their families. This committee was also given the task of procuring a keynote speaker and entertainment involving youth performing groups.

Chaired by Judy Sherman and James Peterson, the program committee involved members of the planning committee and other volunteers. In a series of September meetings, the group worked intensively to set priorities for the types of programs to be included, and to locate functioning examples of these programs and solicit their particpation. Members of their committee brought a broad range of backgrounds, interests, and contacts. Through intensive discussion the committee decided to carry out the general theme of showcasing volunteer programs for children and youth, with specific programs to deal with health, employment, recreation, education child rearing, abuse and neglect, and substance abuse. These topical priorities were to guide the search for volunteer programs working with government or independently to provide support networks. The committee also wished to emphasize the role of youth as volunteers, aiding each other and their communities.

Members spent long hours following leads, communicating requirements, and finally establishing agreements. By October 1, the tentative program was set. A tentative workshop schedule was reviwed by the full planning committee at its October 15 meeting.

On October 19, letters were sent to all workshop leaders confirming the details of their participation.

On October 21, a preliminary program describing the workshops was sent to all those invited to partcipate, so they could indicate workshop preferences in their registration by mail.

The program committee invited Dr. John Yankee, Associate Dean, School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University, to deliver the keynote address, a projected overview of children and youth in Ohio in the 1980's. The committee also arranged for the Elyria High School Madrigals and the Grandview (High School) Singers to perform on the evening of November 13.

P E N N S Y L V A N I A

GOVERNOR RICHARD L. THORNBURGH

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TITLE: "Kids Today"

FORMAT: Tele-Conference

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Child Abuse, Foster Care, Adoption, Permanency Planning, Health, Parents, Education, Volunteerism.

Recommendations: NO

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

After learning that States would be receiving Federal funds for the purpose of conducting a White House Conference on Children and Youth, a variety of project designs were considered. Finally, in order to reach the largest possible group and ensure that all issues had an equal opportunity to be addressed, we chose to conduct an teleconference on the Statewide Public Television Network (PPTN). Recognizing the broad range of strengths and needs of our children, we decided our goal should be to stimulate the interest of Pennsylvania citizens in children.

PROJECT DESIGN

The hour long teleconference began with a twenty minute film that introduced viewers to four children from across the state. After the film, both viewers and audience members had the opportunity to pose questions to a four person panel. The panel consisted of a 17 year old representing youth, a college educator, and representatives of the Departments of Education and Public Welfare.

A staff of nine Department of Public Welfare/Office of Children, Youth and Families employees answered telephones and helped record and answer the viewers' questions. The questions covered a variety of issues ranging from Pennsylvania's progress towards compliance with P.L. 96-272 (The Child Welfare and Adoption Assistance Ammendments of 1980) to a young woman's request for enrollment in a high school that would have parenting classes for her and a child care center for her unborn child.

The audience, located in the studios of three PBS stations across the State, consisted of representatives of provider and citizen organzations, the education community, public and private human service agencies, industry, the clergy and individuals. A total of 39 persons comprised the audience.

"Kids Today" received publicity through a variety of methods. Letters introducing the event were sent to approximately 473 persons and organizations. In response to these letters, 11,281 requests were received for additional information. Posters, booklets and press kits were distributed Statewide. Legislators were provided with materials and were encouraged to watch.

ADMINISTRATION

Since Department of Public Welfare staff capabilities and technical resources could not fully support "Kids Today", production responsibilities were contracted to Pennsylvania State University. Department of Public Welfare staff, however, maintained administrative control over the project and worked in concert with the University on an as needed basis.

OUTCOME

Interested persons and organizations will be advised that 30-minute video cassettes of the documentary and 60-minute cassettes of the entire telecast are available for their use. Several requests have been received to date. A discussion guide will be prepared for distribution with the tape. This guide will be designed to assist agencies and organizations discuss some of the following issues that were raised in the documentary.

- Child Abuse
- Special Needs Adoption
- Foster Care
- Permanency Planning
- Parenting
- Adolescent Pregnancy
- Termination of Parental Rights
- Day Care
- Special Education Programs
- Responsiveness of Schools
- Child Nutrition
- Volunteers, Community Support
- Single Parent Families

Those borrowing the video cassette will be asked to provide us with a very brief, informal outline of the highlights of the discussion and any conclusions or recommendations that may result. Periodically, a summary of audiences and their comments will be circulated to appropriate staff.

R H O D E I S L A N D

GOVERNOR J. JOSEPH GARRAHY

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TITLE: "White House Conference on Children and Youth - Activities in Rhode Island"

FORMAT: Open public hearings; statewide prioritization/assessment survey;

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Health, Education, Legal Issues, Developmental Disabilities, Day Care, Support Services, Health, Service Delivery, Role of the Family, Education, Teenage Pregnancy, Death and Dying, Parenting Skill Training, Substance Abuse.

Recommendations: Yes

Model Prgrams: Yes (see apendix B)

Survey: Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The State of Rhode Island was granted $28,783 to implement the 1981 White House Conference on Children and Youth at the State level. Governor J. Joseph Garrahy delegated the task of planning and sponsoring the conference to the Department for Children and Their Families.

In July, 1981, concurrent with the initial organization of the conference, the Department, under mandate of its enabling legislation, undertook the drafting of a Comprehensive Plan for children. It was immediately evident that the aims of both the conference and the Comprehensive Plan were complimentary, and that services to children and youth in Rhode Island would benefit through a dovetailing of these projects.

It was determined that the focus of the Conference's activities would be to provide Rhode Islanders with a vehicle for input

into the child and youth service delivery system, thus offering state officals and community providers feedback on how the community-at-large evaluates and prioritizes the present delivery of these services.

Thus, while the development of the Comprehensive Plan was based on "study groups" of active agencies, individuals and various "experts," local White House Conference activity was designed to secure citizen input and involvement in a two-step process.

The first of these steps was a Statewide prioritization/assessment survey conducted by the Institute of Human Service, the University of Rhode Island's research arm and social services component. Step two, following a preliminary analysis of the poll, was a series of five open hearings in various locales around the State. Topics highlighted for public comment complimented those addressed by the Plan's study groups: health, mental health, education, legal issues, developmental disabilities, substitute care and support services.

THE SURVEY

During September and early October 1981, Department staff and th faculty of the Institute studied various formats and questions for the survey. The intent of the questions was to elicit, if possible, a prioritization and evaluation of needs and service delivery, in the context of shifting and diminishing fiscal support.

The Department recognized that while many children and youth-centered services come under its aegis, there are State and private agencies which also respond to the diverse needs of children. Therefore, the questions were designed to touch as many points in the spectrum of needs/service as possible, while not making the survey so long that the recipient would not respond.

With a determination to make the resulting data practical and useable, three basic questions were developed: how well are children's needs being met presently; what level of service is required to meet these needs; and who is responsible for meeting these needs.

The survey also included questions describing the respondent so that the final analysis could be weighted to reflect the State's population.

Eighteen specific areas-of-need formed the basis of the first two questions: how well the need is being met (a four point scale from "not at all" to "well") and whether the level of services should be upgraded, maintained or decreased.

The third question, viz., who has the major responsibility for meeting the need, presented 12 varying child-in-need situations and offered six possible responses: Federal, State and local governments, the family, private groups, and "nothing should be done." Of 4,650 surveys distributed in late October 1981, 997 were returned for analysis.

THE OPEN HEARINGS

The Department determined that five public hearings would allow significant input from the citizenry. The hearings were situated to maximize geographic accessibility in facilities which held more than 100 persons and were accessible to the mobility impaired.

Invitations explaining the process and asking for participation were mailed to more than 700 individuals and organizations. A general list of invitees is included in Appendix A.

The Insitute of Human Science and Services prepared a preliminary anlysis of some 600 initially returned surveys. These were included in the invitational package to allow the individual/agency to understand how the public rated their service in terms of its need and delivery.

Approximately ten percent of the grant was spend on purchasing print advertisment announcing the hearings. The ad (see appendix B) appeared twice in the major Statewide paper and once in a dozen local weekly papers. Public service announcements were aired on local radio and TV stations.

The Department Director and two staff members participated in a half-hour public affairs program produced by the State's public public television station; the staff explained the Conference proceedings on a half dozen radio interviews.

The hearing panels were chaired by a member of the Rhode Island Governor's Advisory Commission on Children and Youth. Other members were: an assistant director of the Department, a representative of the business community (under the aegis of the Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce Federation) and a student, (sponsored by the R.I. Student Council Association). This mixture of citizens, business-oriented individuals, youth and public servants aided in eliciting practical information and providing diverse perspectives at the hearings.

THE RESULTS

Forty persons, some representing service providers, spoke at the public hearings. Another 15 entered written testimony. More than 1000 Rhode Islanders (testifiers and survey respondents) had something to say about the needs of children and youth in the State, and how those needs should be addressed.

A review of the survey findings indicates, according to the University's final analysis, that 'on the average, children's needs in Rhode Island are perceived to be 'poorly' to 'fairly well' met, that additional services are needed to meet those needs, and that responsibility for providing these services belongs primarily with the local government and with the family."

During the hearings several themes emerged from the oral and written testimony:

- o programs currently in place are needed and the delivery of these services must be more efficient/effective;
- o that there is no consensus on the role of the family versus that of government in the provision of services (especially in education);
- o it was a forum for an immediate response to the FY '82 Federal Title XX cuts (day-care services).
- o preventive services must be expanded in the areas of health, mental health, developmental disabilities and abuse/neglect;
- o specific problems of service delivery within DCF's jurisdiction were identified.

Cognizant of shrinking fiscal bases for program development and delivery, the State intended to provide a forum for the public to prioritize the needs that children have. In this way, those programs for which there was little public support, viz., those seen as unessential, could be dismantled and the funding given to services with a higher priority.

Such ranking did not clearly emerge, either in the hearings or through the survey. Even in this era when the cry is "no more taxes" the hue is "maintain all the programs."

An analysis of the total response to the "perception of focus of responsibility for selected children's needs", however, does reveal some prioritization and is of significance beyond the State's borders. Of the 12 child-in-need situations presented, five were clearly identified (67% to 89%) as government responsibilities (local State and Federal), five distinctly seen (65% to 79%) as family or private agency responsiblity. Two situations (daily after-school day care and after-school recreation) fell approximately in the middle (50% government with emphasis on local responsibility, and 50% family/private group).

When "government" was identified as most responsible, responsibility at the Federal level always received the least response. In fact, the highest percentage of assignment of responsiblity at that level was 19% (financial assistance for children's medical problems) with three-fourths receiving a ten percent or less response. Assignment of any significant

responsibility at the Federal level only occured only in those instances where government in general was clearly identified as having the major responsibility for dealing with the problem.

In all 12 situations, at least ten percent of the respondents identified local government as responsible, ranging to a high of 46% of the responses signifying local government responsibility for dealing with child abuse.

Problems of illiteracy and after-school activities were also seen primarily as being best dealt at the local level (44 and 41 percent respectively).

Although 22% responded that illiteracy was a State government responsibility and 50% said after-school activities fell within the family's scope of responsibilities.

Survey respondents were clear in assigning responsibility to the family or private groups in the following situations:

-child care during mother's hospitalization (temporary child care)	67% family	12% agency	private
-teenage pregnancy	19% family	50% agency	private
-death and dying assistance	10% family	59% agency	private
-parenting skill training	24% family	43% agency	private
-drug abuse	53% family	12% agency	private

Responsiblity for child abuse help was split between local (46%) and State (38%) governments.

Employment assistance for teenagers was seen as government's problem with no clear distinction between State (27%) and local (26%) government. Fourteen percent of the respondents said the Federal Government had major responsibility in this area.

Because of the diversity of situations and significant variance in assignment of responsibility, the overall averages of such assignment lack distinctive characteristics, save for the Federal Government: it was assigned major responsiblity <u>overall</u> in only 7% of the survey replies.

The Institute's final report on the survey data indicates that few correlations can be drawn between the current needs of children, (i.e., how well the need is being met, and the level of services delivered) and "locus of responsiblity."

What is clearly evident is that none of the needs listed in the survey received more than a 91% response in the "less service needed" columns. The "same level of service needed" was cited by 40% of more of the respondents in only four of the 18 needs. All needs received at least a 52% under "more services needed."

As the Institute notes, those needs seen by more than 50% of the respondents as being met "poorly" or "not at all" had a positive relation to those identified by 70% or more as "needing more service."

The survey was not designed to elicit perceptions with regard to funding. This is relevant for those services identified as the responsibility of private groups and raises significant questions with regard to those areas needing "more service" and which can be correlated with a locus of responsibility at the family level (question three). (An example would be "services to teenage parents" which 58% of the respondents saw as being met "not at all" or "poorly" and which 66% saw as needing more services. Under the question of "responsibility," teenage pregnancy was identified by 50% as a private agency problem, 19% as a family problem. When asked about responsibility for teaching parenting skills, 43% of the respondents cited private groups and 24% the family).

- Sixty three percent cited "employment opportunities for teenagers" as being addressed "poorly" or "not at all". Eighty percent said more services were needed.
- "School based programs on alcohol/drug abuse, nutrition, sex and family life" were cited as being met "poorly" or "not at all" by 61% of the respondents; 76% said services should be upgraded.
- "High quality foster homes" received the highest percentage (81%) under "more services"; only 45% rated the present services as "well" or "fairly well" met.
- "High quality group homes were rated similarly to foster homes, (54% reporting the need "poorly" met).
- Seventy percent placed present "quality correctional facilities for youthful offenders" in the two poorest ratings, with 78% saying services need to be increased.
- Education programs for children with special needs were viewed by 78% of the respondents as "well" or "fairly well" met; 73% placed medical and dental care programs in the same categories. Also ranked high (70%) in the "well/fairly well" category were programs that provide a nutritious, adequate diet for children.
- Other services which were highly ranked for present delivery level were: pre-natal services to mothers (91%); clubs, organizations and recreational programs (69%); programs which provide early identification of children with physical or mental disabilities (67%); and counseling services for children with emotional troubles (60%).

- Crossing the spectrum, (43% "poorly met", 41% "fairly well met") were services in local communities to help children and families in crisis.

CONCLUSION

It is evident that the survey and hearing proved to be a valuable tool in the assessment of needs and the delivery of services. To that extent, Rhode Island's White House Conference activities were successful and will have an essential impact on the drafting of the State's Comprehensive Plan for Children.

SOUTH CAROLINA

GOVERNOR RICHARD W. RILEY

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TITLE: "The Future of Children Guides Our Present"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference, (32) workshops

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Health, Education, Child Care, Sexuality, Latch-key Children, Legislation, Training, Sexual Abuse, Recreation, Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, Early Childhood, Working Women, Single Parents, Adjustment to Dying, Early Intervention, Vocational Rehabilitation, Future Directions.

Recommendations: No

Model Programs: Yes (see Appendix B)

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The South Carolina Conference on Children and Youth was held on October 28 and 29, 1981, at the Law Auditorium in Columbia, South Carolina. The sponsors of the Conference consisted of the Office of the Governors and the University of South Carolina. In addition, the Board of the Center for Child and Family Studies was very important as the planning mechanism for the Conference under the leadership of the Director of the Center, Dr. Reginald Brasington. The initial support for the Conference was provided by the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington and made available to the Governor's Office through the grant process. The Division of Health and Human Services, Office of Children's Affairs subsequently contracted with the University of South Carolina, Center for Child and Family Studies for the planning and implementation of the Conference.

The Center for Child and Family Studies was selected because it is an interdisciplinary research and service organization which has an established reputation for serving the various needs of

children and youth in South Carolina. The location of the Center is of particular importance since the University of South Carolina has academic departments which represents the entire range of services related to the delivery of services to children and youth. Further, the Center is governed by a board of individuals who represent the various disciplines of the University of South Carolina including the College of General Studies, the College of Social Work, the School of Medicine, the Department of Psychology, the College of Education, the College of Nursing and the Director of Special Programs from the Adult Learning Center at the University.

The Board and the Office of Children's Affairs combined their efforts in the planning of the Conference. This required numerous meetings, beginning in June, in order to establish policies and directions and to formulate specific plans for the Conference. The Director of the Center was in daily contact with the Board members and other individuals and agencies which provided input to the planning phase of the Conference.

The theme of the Conference was determined to be the future of children guides our present. With this theme, the planning for the conference could proceed including the identification of issues related to the theme. Too often, the needs of children and youth are perceived as well-defined problem areas, but lack a real motivation for change of solutions. It was decided initially not to focus the effort of the Conference on problems but issues based on numerous studies which had identified the needs of children and youth in South Carolina, state agency plans which set the priorites for children and youth and other reports by the legislative and executive branch. Based on an analysis of these studies and reports, the Board developed a list of topics and concerns of recurring themes. The Conference was organized based on the selected issues which reflected the concerns of parents and professionals. The added dimension of the Conference was to organize the presentations to reflect the needs in context with the directions of the future. The South Carolina Conference on Children and Youth was to serve as a stimulus for change by exposing the participants to innovative ideas and perspective which they could incorporate into their daily activities and, in the true sense, initiate the theme of the Conference -- "the future of children guides our present."

In South Carolina, conferences have traditionally been held for members of a particular agency on a particular subject area. In order to be responsible to the needs of children and youth, all state agencies concerned with children and youth were asked to appoint delegates to the Conference. This procedure avoided the traditional conference where public school teachers communicate with other teacher, social workers communicate with social workers, etc. The South Carolina Conference on Children and Youth responded ensuring that individuals from various service programs had the opportunity to interact in a setting which

could encourage the free examination of issues. The University of South Carolina was particularly well suited for encouraging the exchange of ideas because of its academic mission to freely examine current issues. Further, private agencies were also requested to attend the Conference, as well as citizens and members of the Legislature. Children and youth were invited to participate in the evening session by the Living Stage Theatre. Overall, there were 650 registrants, although all persons were not at all sessions for the full period of the Conference.

As described earlier, the Conference was organized around the issues based on the analysis of the Board and thereby reflecting the primary concerns of parents and professionals. The Conference design was to examine the future in order to guide our decisions today. One particular reality recognized by the Board is that more than half of the mothers today with children under the age of six must work outside the home. This financial reality, with the noncomitant concerns and problems, was one area addressed by the Conference. Overall, there were thirty-two different workshops and twelve speaker presentations during the full assembly. The Conference provided information related to the problems of our times.

Since the theme of the Conference indicated that the future of children guides our present, technology was utilized to bring to the participants futuristic experiences which might not otherwise been available. For example, a 10 x 12 foot television screen was used to project film clips from popular movies which are supported among our children and youth today. That same screen was also used to project the image of Ms. Dorcas R. Hardy as she made the opening welcome to the Conference by a video tape which had previously been prepared. As each major speaker made an address, his image was projected. This technique afforded all participants a clear view of the presenters. This was particularly beneficial to the individuals seated in the back of the Law Center Auditorium (350 seats).

The Conference was designed to develop and unfold in stages. The opening of the Conference addressed a national perspective on the issues, followed by an analysis of the most recent knowledge relative to early childhood. The afternoon session of the first day examined the health issues and suggested directions for decisions. This was followed by sixteen sessions which addressed major concerns and issues. Significant progress was made in these sessions in bringing together the members of various agencies and citizens in a forum on the issues, concerns and solutions.

The first day of the Conference was concluded by an evening session by the Living Stage Theatre to which the public was invited as well as children and youth. Overall, the participation consisted of approximately 125 individuals. The presentation of the Living Stage Theatre was outstanding, and those in

attendance were moved by the emotional power of the actors. The evening session was an excellent vehicle to include the community and others who were unable to participate in the presentations of the Conference.

On the second day, the beginning session addressed the problems of youth and families. The afternoon sessions were designed to ask State agencies to respond to the issues which had been raised by the Conference. Governor Richard W. Riley, the Vice-chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Children and other leading officials in State government addressed the Conference.

The final sessions on the second day were designed for State agencies to emphasize some of the successful programs/projects which has received regional or national recognition in providing the best for our children and youth. The State must examine its strengths and build upon the successful programs/projects of the past. These sessions were of benefit as they encouraged individuals from various agencies to discuss the problems, to identify solutions which are currently available, and to encourage interagency cooperation by cross agency referral.

It was anticipated that this Conference was the first to be organized so that participants were in a non-adversarial setting. This became important to many of the participants as they were able to examine the issues without partiality to their agency. This was the first conference at which members of every State agency, including both head and representative could discuss common concerns in providing services to children and youth. Various State officials indicated a need to continue this type of conference on an annual basis. As a result of this interdisciplinary conference, it is clear that there is a need for South Carolina to develop such a forum for individuals from such diverse groups in order to examine common concerns and problems of children and youth. One result of this conference will be an attempt to develop another similar conference to serve the need identified. Further, the Board of the Center for Child and Family Studies has recognized, as a result of this Conference, that the University has a responsibility to develop graduates who are specialized in these areas and who have an interdisciplinary understanding. The Center has been requested to sponsor a conference for our graduate and undergraduate students at the University so that they enter into the professions with an improved recognition of the necessity for interdisciplinary approaches to the problems and solutions focusing on children and youth.

The remaining feature of the Conference related to a concerned effort by the Board to involve as many individuals in the intent of the Conference as possible. This included an open invitation to individuals in South Carolina who wish to submit papers of 3-6 pages regarding any subject area related to children and youth. An announcement was made to all the newspapers in South

Carolina and was sent to thousands of individuals who have been active in providing education or services to children and youth. This public forum is one which has attracted much interest and the Center has received in excess of fifty papers. There were no academic boundaries placed on the papers and individuals were encouraged to submit poems or works of art or an issue paper. A publication will be forthcoming in January, entitled Issues of Children and Youth in South Carolina, 1982. A copy of this publication will be available when completed. This document will be significant in that it will be an open expression for individuals from all parts of South Carolina. It is hoped that funds may be identified to continue this effort for a better future for our children and youth.

T E N N E S S E E

GOVERNOR LAMAR ALEXANDER

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Tennessee Children's Service Commission
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TITLE: "Tennessee Voluteers for Children Conference"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference; (23) Regional conferences, (62) workshops; Resource sharing fair.

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Volunteerism - resource development, promotion, assessment, training, development of local and statewide networks.

Recommendations: Yes - extensive

Model Programs: Yes (see appendix B)

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Tennessee's White House Conference for Children and Youth grant was used to fund the first phase of the Tennessee Volunteeers for Chidren Project (TVC Project) which included a two-day training Conference on volunteerism and resource development. The TVC Project is a twelve-month project which seeks to provide motivation and education that will enable the citizens of Tennessee to become actively and successfully involved in meeting the needs of Tennessee's children and youth. It is the aim of the Project to encourage people from all segments of Tennessee's population to become involved in services and issues related to children and youth. To that end, the project activities are geared to the promotion of children and youth services and to the provision of training which will better enable people to work on behalf of children and youth.

The Tennessee Volunteers for Children Project was planned and is being implemented in two phases. The first phase, which began July 1, 1981 and ends January 29, 1982, included activities which lead up to the Tennessee Volunteers for Children Conference,

(TVC Conference), Tennessee's White House Conference for Children and Youth. The second phase which will begin on February 1, 1982 is designed as follow-up to the activities and training delivered during Phase One. The activities of the first phase are described below:

PRE-CONFERENCE

Kick-Off

The TVC Project was officially announced by Governor and Mrs. Lamar Alexander during a ceremony on September 2, 1981 at McNeilly Day Home in Nashville.

Briefings

As a continuation of the TVC Project Kick-Off activities, briefings on the TVC Project were held in Tennessee's four largest cities: Knoxville, Nashville, Memphis, and Chattanooga. Over 1,500 invitations were sent to individuals representing children and youth services, civic organizations, volunteer organizations, professional groups, local government, State agencies, business and industries, and the media. The purpose of the briefings was to explain and promote the Project activities, particularly the TVC Conference.

The briefings provided an opportunity for citizen input into the plans for the TVC Conference. Forms requesting workshop ideas, training needs, and presenters were distributed. The information gained from these forms provided the basis for the training offered at the TVC Conference.

County Meetings

In order to inform citizens at the local level about the TVC Project and in order to gain a grassroots assessment of the status of children's services, the history and the current use of volunteers and other resources, and training and resource needs, the TVC Project staff held local meetings in 23 Tennessee counties. The same cross-section of individuals invited to the briefings were invited to the country meetings.

The county meetings resulted in the following:

1. The promotion of volunteerism at the local level.
2. The assessment of local volunteer use and needs
3. An examination of resource needs and the availability of alternative resource.
4. The identification of local training needs and local children and youth issues. (Some of the identified training needs will be addressed in Phase Two, others were addressed at the TVC Conference.)
5. A strengthened local and statewide network of "volunteers for children."

6. The promotion of the TVC Conference and identification of Conference workshop topics.

Promotion

The focus of the TVC Project promotional activities was two-fold. Some of the promotion was designed to promote the TVC Project and Conference and other promotion focused primarily on volunteerism and children's services.

The promotional activities included:

1. Nine articles in newspapers across the State about the TVC Project and Conference. (see appendices.)
2. Monthly articles in the Tennessee Children's Services Commission's newsletter, Spectrum. Some of the articles reported events of the Project and some of them reported on effective volunteer programs in the State. (see appendices.)
3. Distribution of 7,000 copies of a TVC Project brochure and a TVC Conference flyer. (see appendices.)
4. Participation in one local and two Statewide radio talk shows.
5. Three local television news interviews in conjunction with briefings and county meetings.
6. Presentations to 15 professional, civic, and religious groups on volunteerism and the TVC Project.
7. Planned slide/tape presentation on the status of Tennessee's children and the need for volunteers.
8. Development of radio Public Service Announcements which encourage volunteering for children. (To be aired during phase Two.)
9. Planning of the Tennessee Volunteers for Children Corporate Involvement Seminar which will be held during Phase Two. Selected representatives of Tennessee corporations will be invited to a business roundtable to learn about and discuss how and why businesses and industries can be involved in children and youth services.
10. Development of a State volunteerism brochure to be distributed during Phase Two. This brochure lists ways volunteers can be involved in the services to children and youth which are provided by the five State departments serving children, Public Health, Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Human Services, Correction and Education.

Information Materials:

A series of Quick Reference Sheets was obtained from "Volunteer: The National Center for Citizen Involvement". Two thousand copies were reprinted and distributed as a part of the TVC Project.

The series include:
1. Volunteer Insurance
2. Training Volunteers
3. How Much Are Volunteers Worth?

4. Recruiting Volunteers
5. Tax Deductions for Volunteers
6. Volunteer/Staff Relations
7. Recordkeeping and Evaluation
8. Fundraising
9. The Status of Volunteering
10. Public Relations: A First Few Thoughts
11. Non-Profit Board Basics
12. Volunteer Readership 1982

Interdepartmental Coordination

In order to effectively promote volunteerism within State government and to maximize the efforts of the TVC Project the following activities were completed:

1. A meeting with each of the Commissioners of the five Departments which serve children. These meetings resulted in the following:

   a. An explanation of the TVC Project.
   b. An understanding of the past and current use of volunteers in the Departments.
   c. A discussion of ways volunteers will be needed in the future.
   d. Identification of a priority service to be promoted by the TVC Project.

2. The Tennessee Volunteers for Children Interdepartmental Committee met four times during the Project for the purpose of sharing information on the use of volunteers within the various Departments and to plan the Departmental involvement in the TVC Conference.

3. Each of the five Departments was allocated a track of time during the TVC Conference for the purpose of providing training for their employees and/or for any Conference participant.

Advisory Committee:

The Tennessee Volunteers for Children Advisory Committee is composed of 12 people from across Tennessee. The Committee serves as public relations ambassadors for the TVC Project, for volunteerism, and for children and youth. The Committee provided input and feedback on the First Phase activities and continues to serve as advisors on plans for Phase Two. The Committee assisted with the implementation of the TVC Conference.

The Advisory Committee Chairperson, Ms. Emmie McDonald presided throughout the TVC Conference. Ms. McDonald was very involved in the planning of the Corporate Involvement Seminar and will

preside over the Seminar when it is held during Phase Two of the TVC Project. Chairperson McDonald worked with Governor Alexander in securing the funds for Phase Two.

CONFERENCE:

The Tennessee Volunteers for Children Conference was held December 4th and 5th, 1981 in Nashville, Tennessee. The Statewide TVC Conference was headquartered at the Nashville Hyatt Regency. Workshops and training sessions were also located at the Nashville Radisson Hotel, the State Legislative Plaza, and Tennessee State University.

The TVC Conference did not conform to traditional State White House Conferences by having selected or elected delegates. The TVC Conference was open to anyone wishing to attend. Effort was made to have participation from the voluntary, provider, private, academic, and religious sectors. Over 100 presentors and 500 Conferees participated in the TVC Conference.

The TVC Conference was based on the premise that the critical question for children and youth in the '80's will begin with how, not what. There was a strong feeling among the Conference planners and the citizens consulted that Tennessee did not need a State conference whose purpose was identifying needs, establishing priorities, and making recommendations because of the 1979 International Year of the Child activities, the 1980 White House Conference on Families, and various State needs assessments and reports. Therefore, the TVC Conference was an action-oriented Conference. Specific training and skill building opportunities were provided through 62 different workshops, seminars, and discussion groups.

The TVC Conference was designed to provide useful training and dialogue in the area of resources for children and youth. Through the Conference, participants gained skills identifying, developing, and utilizing a variety of resources including human resources (volunteers, parents, youth, and the elderly), community resources, (civic groups, academics, churches, businesses), financial resources, and personal resources. The goal of the Conference was an improved environment for Tennessee's children and youth with parents, providers, youth, the elderly, and the public sector, the private sector, and the voluntary sector joining hands to become more capable and more willing to work on behalf of our youngest citizens.

The primary objectives of the two-day event were:

1. To better prepare the participants to meet the needs of children and youth in their local communities.
2. To expand the network of people working on behalf of children and youth in Tennessee.

3. To recognize and share exemplary programs, ideas, approaches, and solutions which effectively and efficently serve children and youth in Tennessee.
4. To support the important work being done in Tennessee for children and youth.

In the opening session, Chairperson Emmie McDonald introduced Tennessee's First Lady, Mrs. Honey Alexander. Mrs. Alexander welcomed the participants and offered her best wishes for a successful Conference.

The opening keynote address was presented by Dr. Ivan Scheier, nationally known volunteer trainer, consultant, and author from Boulder, Colorado. Dr. Scheier talked about effective ways Tennesseans can increase their volunteer efforts for children and youth. The expert involved the audience in an exercise which identified ways Tennesseans are currently volunteering/ caring for children and youth and areas in which volunteers need to be involved.

A performance by the Tennessee Children's Dance Ensemble was the feature of the evening session on December 4th. This professional dance group from Knoxville is composed of children ranging from 8 to 13 years. Under the direction of Dr. Dorothy Floyd, the Ensemble presented a series of dances which illustrated that Tennessee's youth are definitely resources.

An award ceremony was also a part of the Friday evening agenda. "Friend of Children Awards" were presented to seven individuals their services to the TVC Project. Recognition awards were also presented to the six organizations which formally endorsed the TVC Project. The 25 programs selected to participate in the Resource Sharing Fair were also recognized with awards.

Those attending the Conference agreed that the Resource Sharing Fair was a bonus to the event. The Tennessee Volunteers for Children Advisory Committee selected 25 children and youth programs, from 85 nominations, which were showcased during the Conference in a festive atmosphere. The Fair participants were innovative examples of cost-effective, efficient uses of resources. The Conferees were invited to walk through the Fair and share ideas, thoughts, concerns, and solutions with representatives of the Fair programs. The Fair provided an opportunity to recognize exemplary programs being implemented across the State while at the same encouraging participants to share successful solutions and alternative approaches to children and youth services. Participants walked into the Fair with questions and concerns and walked away with information, support, encouragement, and personal contacts. Volunteers for children throughout the State became much closer because of the Resource Sharing Fair.

The second day of the Conference began with a panel discussion entitled, "Responsiblities for Children's Services in the '80's." Representatives of various sectors shared issues and concerns relative to providing services to children as well as ideas on what role the various sectors will play in providing services during this decade. The panel, moderated by Dr. Karen Edwards, Executive Director of the Tennessee Children's Services Commission, included Ralph Baugh of Metro Nasvhille Social Services representing local government, John Howe of Region IV, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, representing the Federal Government, Commissioner Sammie Lynn Puett, representing State Government, Ms. Anne Bumstead, President of the Nashville Junior League representing the voluntary sector, Ms. Nancy Bennett, Director of the Nashville Chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews representing the religious sector, and Ms. Marie Oser, Executive Director of the Texas Institute for Families speaking about the role of the private sector.

Governor Lamar Alexander concluded the Conference on Saturday afternoon with an address which praised the work of volunteers and emphasized the need for greater citizen involvement. In his remarks, the Governor talked about the responsiblities of the public sector and recognized that the private sector could not accept all of the funding responsibilties of social services. The Governor told the audiences that individual citizens have the power and the greatest potential for positively impacting the lives of Tennessee's children and youth. The Governor cited several programs where volunteers are making a difference in issues affecting children and youth. In conclusion, Governor Alexander applauded the work of the Tennessee Volunteers for Children Project and encouraged follow-up activities to the Conference.

T E X A S

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TITLE: "A Study of Attitudes in the State of Texas - The Problems of Children and Youth"

FORMAT: Statewide attitude survey and analysis.

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Employment, Juvenile Justice, Education, Health, Substance Abuse, Teenage Pregnancy, Child Care, Parenting, Service delivery, Disability, Crime, Role of Government, Family Life.

Recommendations: N/A

Model Programs: N/A

Survey: Yes - extensive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

(1) Less than half of the State's population think of specific, specific, individual problem behavior areas when asked about the problems of Texas young people and children today. today. Of those who do mention specific behavioral problems, the vast majority specify drug and alcohol use.

(2) Almost 40% of the State's population talk about environmental factors when discussing the problems of young people in the State.

(3) Nevertheless, drugs, crime, and teenage pregnancy are rated as very serious problems when resopondents are specifically asked to react to them.

(4) While education in the abstract is seen as a significant problem by almost fifty percent (50%) of the population in response to the open-ended questions, the specific problem of "inadquate schools" is not seen as particularly serious.

(5) Whites and those respondents with higher levels of income and education tend to see the problem of children and youth in the State as less serious than do blacks, Hispanics, and those with lower levels of income and education.

(6) Older Texans see drugs as a more serious problem than do younger residents, but younger Texans perceive several other problems as more serious than do the older Texans.

(7) Drugs, teenage pregnancy and child abuse tend to be seen as equally serious by all socioeconomic groups in the State.

(8) Big city dwellers see juvenile delinquency and drugs as slightly more serious problems than do those who live elsewhere in the State, but these differences are not large. The perception of most problems seems to cut fairly equally throughout all sizes and types of communities in the State.

(9) The level of information and knowledge of services that Texas provides for it young people is low. The majority (54%) of Texas adults (18+) cannot name any such services.

(10) Texans have no clear cut perception of how Texas ranks vis-a-vis other States in its provision of services for young people. As many people think the State ranks high as think it ranks low.

(11) Texans in general rate the State's handling of ten (10) specific youth problems in direct relationship to the perceived severity of these problems. The more serious the problem, the poorer the job the State is perceived to be doing.

(12) Texans do not necessarily want their State Government involved in solving youth problems in direct proportion to the perceived severity of those problems. The drug and alcohol problem receives the top priority of the State, while social problems, inadequate schools, and juvenile delinquency/youth crime are next on the list of perceived State priorities.

(13) There is considerable variation in the priorities attached to these problems by demographic and geographic subgroup within the State.

(14) When ranked against other entities such as the family, the public schools, religious organizations and city/county government, the state of Texas receives only the fifth priority as the responsible agency for solving the problems of our young people. There is a clear feeling that the family and schools should be most responsible for these problems.

(15) Almost one-half of the sampled respondents said in response to an open-ended question that the best way to prevent youth crime is a better homelife. Only 8% mentioned the criminal justice system.

(16) Minorities and those with less education are more in favor of the State providing jobs to help prevent youth crime than are whites and those with more education.

(17) There is a 2:1 preference for probation over State schools and prisons for young persons convicted of non-violent crimes like theft.

(18) There is also a strong perference for parental responsibility for these offenders, as opposed to State responsibilities.

(19) Residents of Texas are strongly in favor (over 3 to 1) of young people continuously involved in serious or violent crime being kept in juvenile facilities rather than in prisons for adults.

(20) Two-thirds of the Texas adult population agree that rapid changes in family life today are making it more difficult for students to learn and adjust in our public school system.

(21) There is a strong preference in the State for "basics" within the public school curriculum. Young people, blue-collar workers, farmers and ranchers, and blacks and Hispanics are somewhat less in favor of basics being taught that are others. There is a strong positive relationship between level of education and preference for reading and writing.

(22) Discipline, high dropout rates, and the failure to teach basic skills are seen as the most serious problems in Texas public schools today. Poor preparation of teachers is viewed as the least serious of the six problems respondents considered.

(23) There is strong sentiment in the State that students should be promoted from grade to grade only on the basis of achievment.

(24) There is an overwhelming perception by Texans that drug and alcohol education should be offered in the public schools. Seventy-one percent of the public feels that it should be offered in the sixth grade or earlier.

(25) Almost 90% of Texas residents agree with the need for prenatal care for pregnant mothers, even in situations in which there are no special problems with the pregnancy.

(26) The State of Texas is given a clear role by the people to be a major factor in providing pre-natal and childbearing help to pregnant mothers if she and her family cannot pay bill. The State is preferred over city/county government, the Federal Government, religious groups, and private businesses.

(27) Sixty percent of the State feels that family planning information and training should be made available outside of the home.

(28) The family is seen as the major group which should be providing parenting information for the State's young people in childbearing and child raising years. Only 7% of the sample choose the State of Texas as an agency to provide this information. Somewhat surprisingly, only 5% of the respondents choose religious and charitable organizations to provide this training.

(29) Texans by almost a 2:1 margin feel that State facilities should be made accessible by handicapped citizens regardless of costs or disruptions involved (61% to 32%). Older and better educated Texans are less in favor of this position than other Texans.

(30) Texans clearly prefer private facilities for the handling of psychiatric and emotionally disabling problems involving their children. Texans are more likely to use State and government facilities for receiving help for mental retardation problems within their family.

(31) Sixty-nine percent of those interviewed think that more day care help should be given to working parents. Twenty-four percent disagreed. Blacks and Hispanics are more in favor of this help than whites. Residents feel that businesses are the most acceptable source of this day care help, followed by tax credits on income tax, and day care as part of the public schools. There is a small sentiment in favor of day care offered by the government.

(32) Getting drunk drivers off the road is the method for reducing fatal auto accidents involving young persons most favored by Texans. Raising the age at which a driver's license can be obtained is favored by only 15% of the population.

U T A H

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TITLE: "Utah White House Conference on Children and Youth"

FORMAT: Process training conference; Public opinion poll.

FINAL REPORT:

Issues: Parenting, Communications, Substance Abuse, Education, Juvenile Justice, Peer Counseling

Recommendations: yes

Model Programs: No

Survey: Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In May, 1981, Health and Human Services Secretary Richard S. Schweiker announced that the White House Conference on Children and Youth would be implemented through conferences convened by the States, Territories and the District of Columbia. The Secretary set aside $32,765 to assist Utah with a State conference on Children and Youth which was Utah's share of the 2.3 million congressional appropriation for the White House Conference.

In order for Utah to receive the allocated funds, a grant application had to be submitted by July 1, 1981 with the understanding that the conference would be held prior to January 1, 1982. It was decided by the Executive Director of the Department of Social Services that Utah should convene a Conference on Children and Youth and that the Division of Children, Youth and Families would file an application for the funds and take the leadership role in planning such a conference.

An application for Federal assistance was mailed to the Grants and Contracts Management Division on June 5, 1981. On August 10, 1981, the state received a notification from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that the application was approved.

PSS

The Director of the Division of Children, Youth and Families immediately discussed the award with the Chairperson of the Board of Family Services. It was decided to appoint a steering committee to plan the conference and the steering committee should consist of about 20-24 persons representing youth, PTA, schools, public safety, Juvenile Court, Health, law enforcement and professional orgnizations serving children and youth. The youth were selected from among the major religious organizations and were to represent rural as well as urban youth. The adult members were selected taking into consideration their race and economic status so as to include a broad representation of persons on the Committee. The Chairperson was selected based upon his membership on the Board of Family Services, and the respect he enjoys from all segments within the State.

It was further decided that staff from the Division of Children, Youth and Families would support the steering committee by providing secretarial and professional staff time necessary to make the conference a success.

The first meeting of the steering committee was held on August 18, 1981, and the steering committee met semi-monthly thereafter. A major problem that the steering committee struggled with was the time. Ordinarily, it takes a year to plan a quality conference, but the steering committee had only three months. This problem was further complicated by the diversity of persons on the steering committee. The first few meetings were restricted to trying to determine the purpose and goals for a conference. For example, should the conference address children and youth or only youth.

By the third meeting, it was agreed that the primary focus of the conference should be on youth. It was felt that the conference should emphasize the positive contributions of youth and not center on youth problems. The group wanted youth involved and allow them an opportunity to talk to adults rather than adults talking to youth. Even though the primary focus was to be on youth, it was decided there should be something for parents with small children so concurrent workshops would be directed for the smaller child.

To provide background information on youth, it was decided to conduct a public opinion poll on a sample of youth, parents, teachers and law-enforcement personnel. Such a study was developed by the Wasatch Opinion Research Organization.

In early November, the committee decided that the conference would be held on December 8 - 9, 1981 at the Hotel Utah. It was the desire of the committee to get youth actively involved in the conference. However, it was recognized that school officials would not be able to release large numbers of youth from school to attend a conference just before the Christmas vacation period.

It was, therefore, decided by the Committee that the conference should be a training one with the expectation that those who attend the conference would carry cut an activity in their own community, so that more youth could get involved.

In order to achieve this goal, the conference was designed to be a process-training conference rather than one that dealt just with content issues. Teams from each school district in the State were invited to attend the conference and then subsequently carry out an activity in their own school district. It was felt that if the school district personnel selected the team, the youth selected would be excused from school to attend the conference.

The teams consisted of two to eight youth, a PTA representative, and a teacher. The districts were requested to select an equal number of boys and girls. The committee also invited other youth who represented youth who were in alternative schools. The committee did not want a conference for school leaders and so the districts were asked to select mainstream youth. There were 182 persons registered for the conference with 105 being youth.

The conference paid for their expenses to attend the conference. Out of 40 school districts, 34 participated. An invitation to select a team was sent to each school superintendent on November 5, 1981. A covering letter from the State Superintendent of Education endorsing the conference was included with the invitation. We had asked that the superintendent notify within two weeks of the selection of team members. Only a few schools had reported back within the two weeks. Staff followed up with the school districts where no response was received. Names were received as late as December 7, 1981.

Since the conference was designed as a training conference, communication skill material was presented that could be used in follow up district meetings. Issues were not presented and, therefore, there wasn't any voting on issues. Because of the format, strict rules for delegate selection was not needed.

A copy of the program is enclosed with this report. During the workshop, the various themes were assisted to organize themselves, select a team leader and do some preliminary planning for a follow-up activity around some problem(s) identified as a concern in their own area. Some examples of their discussions are: (1) one team identified vandalism within the school as a major problem and discussed student involvement in the problem with an aim of initiating a student campaign to assist the community in becoming aware of the problem, (2) another team identified in their area a lack of peer counseling to combat negative peer pressures. They felt their team could contact school principals about establishing peer counseling programs in

the schools; (3) one team was mainly concerned about the problem of youth drug and alcohol abuse. They discussed the possibility of developing a media approach to attack this problem; (4) one rural team expressed concern about the numbers of students who saw little point in education. Their approach was to invite employers to schools to let students know what they look for when employing persons; (5) a team identified a problem of poor communication between teachers and students. Their solutions were for teachers and students to have opportunities to learn good communication skills; and (6) an Urban Team reports that they will discuss the conference in each school.

The committee has also planned to develop materials for the use of the various teams. These are in the process of development and will be distributed to the teams as they are developed. Moreover, a request has been sent to Health and Human Services to amend the grant to allow the committee to provide a modest financial support for local activities. Staff will be in contact with team leaders in order to encourage a follow up on what to place in the State meeting and to use the data received from the teams for a final report.

V E R M O N T

GOVERNOR RICHARD A. SNELLING

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TITLE: "Child Sexual Abuse Conference"; "The Vermont Celebration of Children and Youth"; "The Childrens Task Force"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference; (66) Regional events; (135) Activities; Task force.

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Child Sexual Abuse, Primary Prevention, Education, Juvenile Justice, Day Care, Permanency Planning, Family Violence, Health, Parenting, Foster Care, Employment, Volunteers.

Recommendations: Yes

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLAN

The Vermont edition of the White House Conference on Children and Youth met the intent of the Federal initiative through a three part plan. The objectives to be met by the Children and Youth Conference were three:

1. To increase the level of skill of professionals working with children.
2. To promote family strengthening activities in many Vermont communities.
3. To develop childrens' issues that are reflective of an increased partnership between decision makers, service providers, and the citizens.

To meet these objectives within the White House Conference on Children and Youth State Grant requirements, the three part plan

was conceived and implemented. The methods employed were: A two day conference on the prevention and treatment of child sexual abuse on December 16 and 17, 1981; the development of a CHILDREN'S TASK FORCE to work with the Commissioner of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services to develop a children's service platform and to serve as advisors for the Commissioner of Vermont's Child Welfare Agency (SRS), and the proclamation of the week of November 29 - December 5th as Children and Youth Week in Vermont, culminating in (THE VERMONT CELEBRATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH) -- local parenting workshops and health promotion activities, as well as cultural and fun activities for the family at nine sites around the State.

PARTICIPANTS

Vermont's three part plan was devised in part in response to the traditional outcome of a White House Conference on Children and Youth, that of a meeting of different children's professionals, with an issues paper resulting that would eventually meet its fate in a file cabinet. At best, its result would be as a footnote for policy papers, or for future conference presentations. Often in the recent past, the White House Conference has not been able to effect significant change or improvement for the children of America. Since the initial White House Conference in which child labor were conceived, marked social change has been absent as function of the proceedings. If this was to be the fate of much work and taxpayer's dollars, then Vermont, in its tradition of Yankee individuality and survival would have not been enthusiastic about funds spent on providing food and lodging for participants and $1,000 and more payments for keynote speakers. This approach benefits professionals and not the citizenry. In recognition of this fact, the Vermont Conference Plan was designed to meet the intent of the conference, while having some of the positive effects benefit Vermonters; the general public, as well as dedicated professionals. Our assessment of an issue development conference, especially given the fact that there was no Washington, D.C., forum to present these at, would be "sound and fury signifying nothing". As it were, there were over 13,000 Vermonters who participated in the program, as task force members, participants at the Child Sexual Abuse Conference, and at the Celebration activities. In addition, a broad section of persons all over the State worked as volunteers in conference planning, and implemention (see report attachments for figures).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTINUATION OF CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Since so many persons were involved in the conference activities, many, many viewpoints were heard.

There were several complaints regarding the timetable as outlined by the Federal Government and further complicated by

State Government. Simply, the time was too short. In Vermont, as in some other States, an act of the legislature is required to accept funds from the Federal Government. When the legislature is not in session, this is done by a Joint Fiscal Committee of the legislature. This body does not meet often during the summer, and our funds could only be acted on in late September, giving conference planners a difficult situation, since they could not make any commitments on the funds. There have been times when the legislature had turned down funds and no one wanted to assign much staff to a project that was not formally accepted. There was much anger that funds had to be spent during the late fall and winter months. Several people on committees felt that conference planning could have included more people in a more effective way if activities could have taken place in the spring. During the holiday session there is much activity and so even pushing the conferences into December, did not afford a good compromise. There was also much feeling about the cancellation of the Children and Youth Conference at the Federal level. It was seen as a strong statement against children. This fact was only emphasized by the White House Conference on Aging, which received nationally televised and press coverage. The juxtaposition of an active Aging Conference at the time of cancelling the Children's Conference made this light to children undeniable. Recommendations from many of the conference planners and participants included a desire to reinstitute a National Conference, for Children, to establish a meaningful forum where Childrens policy, programs, and directions are established and followed by our country. It is hoped that this recommendation will be followed.

Many persons concerned about crime and delinquency and familiar with the research on same, realize that these social problems and others will show marked increases as services decline. Services, income assistance, and the promotion of a caring community of persons accountable for provision of service have held juvenile crime so that it has not increased. Few people know this fact, and few people openly congratulate the persons responsible for this phenomena. With the present scheduled reductions and shifting of leadership away from solving the problems, and moving decisions closer to the taxpayer will excarbate many problems and will make it appear that solutions will have price tags much too high. Of course, more costly and less workable solutions will then appear, such as large institutions. If local solutions had worked in the past, responsibility would have not been shifted to the Federal Government. Although this conference report will have no impact on changing the Federal policy, to keep good faith with many people voicing these concerns, it is stated here in the hopes that if enough feedback is provided by the States, than this voice might be heard, and responded to at some point.

CONFERENCE COMPONENTS

The Children's Task Force

The Task Force consisting of membership representative of the following sectors: foster parents, group homes, day care, child protection teams, juvenile diversion programs, schools, law enforcement, parents, private citizens, and legislators. The Task Force was convened by SRS Commissioner John Burchard. Presentations to this group about the present level of services to children served by the Vermont Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services were made enabling the task force to create informed recommendations, and provide advice on directions, budget, and programming. The Task Force has now met three times, and has begun formulating recommendations and strategies to educate Vermont legislators and citizens on issues of programs and cost and relative worth of juvenile programs. The commitment from SRS Commissioner Burchard to the group came in the form of making the body a continuing and perhaps permanent part of Social Services Division's ongoing business. The Task Force is a 17 member body.

The Prevention and Treatment of Sexual Abuse Conference

The Child Welfare Agency (SRS) had already mounted a training program for local police, State's attorneys, social workers, mental health professionals, health professionals, and other service providers. This two-day workshop is conducted by county. This year, a terrible rape and murder occured involving Vermont School children, two as victims, two as perpetrators. This crime shocked the entire State, and during the investigation certain facts were revealed. During the course of the investigation, material was seized indicating that the father of one of the alleged teenage perpetrators possessed pornographic pictures and other materials indicating that he had sexually abused his own daughter (the alleged perpetrator's sister) over a long period of time. The cycle of abuse and crime was highlighted, and this issue received broad and continuing coverage throughout the State. This advanced workshop met a need in Vermont that was extremely timely. This consisted of a day long workshop on the Incestuous Family, Divided Loyalty, and Treatment Modalities for the Child and Offender. Dr. Nick Groth of Somers State Prison, Connecticut, and Ann W. Burgess, R.N., of Boston University School of Nursing conducted this workshop. Burgess and Groth are both co-authors (among others) of SEXUAL ASSAULT OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS. On day II, the program consisted of Vermont professionals offering three and four concurrent workshops for participants to choose from. These included: "A Systems Approach to Intervening with Incentous Families" (between law enforcement, social services, mental health, and police); "Prevention and Parent Education," "Sexuality," "Working with Adult Surviviors," "Art Therapy with Incest

Victims," "Medical Protocol," and "The Criminal Justice Response." Although 120 people registered for the two-day conference, a winter storm cut the participants in half.

THE VERMONT CELEBRATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The bulk of Conference funds were used to make a grant to the University of Vermont Extension Service to coordinate this celebration. Originally called, "Parenting For the '80's, A Celebration of Children and Youth", the title was changed by an Ad-hoc Statewide Committee convened to provide advice on the gatherings. Nine areas of the State were asked to organize committees to have the celebration. Some chose to have a week long celebration and and some just chose to have a day long series of activities on December 5, 1981. Donations from businesses made additional resources available. The Extension Service is committed to continuing these family strengthening activities, and many communities are doing so on their own.

These planned activities were educational and preventive in nature and focused upon strengthening families, developing skills and strategies for parenting, family interaction and other life experiences that could be used by community members to enhance or improve family life, and subsequently, the lives of children and youth. These efforts were not intended, as were other White House Conferences, to provide a forum for public hearings, discussions of remediating problems after the fact, or for the development of platforms, resolutions or recommendations to government bodies. Rather, they were designed to provide educational opportunities and to promote healthy and productive interaction for family members. Attention was directed toward providing people with opportunities to enjoy and strengthen their relationships as well as to gain skills and information needed to be in concert with a changing world.

Twenty-six (26) agencies were contacted by the Extension Service and SRS inviting them to serve as members on a State Ad Hoc Committee. Twenty-five (25) persons representing sixteen (16) agencies attended that meeting and reviewed the tentative Statewide plan. Recommendations were made by participants regarding the plan, the theme for the activity, and names of people or agencies who might be contacted to serve on Regional Planning Comittees. Cooperation and continuing input from these agency representatives was solicited and followed-up with agency personnel who volunteered to participate.

Regional Coordinating Committee Chairs were selected and contacted and provided with directions and supportive information and materials. Committee chairpersons selected other local members for their committees and began planning regional activities and were allowed a $1,200.00 budget to carry out regional efforts. These allocations were bolstered through State developed materials (flyers, posters, labels, etc.) to be used locally.

A State Planning Committee met October 29, 1981 to review plans, activities and progress. Following this meeting, additional efforts were made to stengthen the planned activities and to ensure that all project objectives would be met, as outlined, and within the established time frame.

Activities Planned, Developed and Implemented

Proposed activities were planned in nine (9) regional locations by seventy (70) planners/organizers at sixty-six (66) sites across the State. More than 600 volunteers working with the regional coordinating committee members jointly contributed slightly less than 6,000 reported hours in planning and implementing 135+ activities. About 13,000 individual Vermont residents were reported to have directly participated in the scheduled events. Many other family members were reached through the various media efforts employed (newsletters, radio and television programming) but are not included in these figures. Moreover, many of these individuals participated in several of the scheduled activities.

Reported population characteristics (family types) of participants indicate that families with young children (42%) were most predominantly in attendance followed by families with school-age children (24%), adults (16%), single parent families (13%), and elderly (5%). Participation by age statistics reflect similar characteristics: elementary school-age children (48%), adults (24%), pre-school-age children (15%), and high school-age (13%).

Governor Snelling proclaimed the week of November 29 - December 5, 1981 as the period for a Celebration of Children and Youth in Vermont to honor the State's young people and to urge all Vermonters to join in the various activities....to promote childhood health and the skills of parenting. The Governor's intent was well met by the agency and public response across the State.

Festive activities were offered such as ice-cream eating contests (ice cream and awards donated by Ben & Jerry's of Burlington), clowns and mime shows, marionettes and puppet shows, craft making, story-telling, the Two-Penny Circus, and so on and were complemented by health related programs and activities including blood pressure checks, numerous nutrition education programs, to safety, workshops for disabled persons, family swims, basketball clinics, and stress management; and education for parenting including: parent survival, communications, building family strengths, encouragement, working parents, teen-age fathers, protecting children from sexual abuse, and numerous others. International Youth Exchange Programs were described by exchanges; New Games (non-competitive) contests; cultural events; song fests; variety shows; and many other activities and programs highlighted the local celebrations (see attached list.)

Apparent Issues

Although the Vermont plan was not oriented to issues development, there were of course salient issues raised throughout the three parts of conference planning and implementation. In brief summary, the following issues are presented as some of the concerns of Vermonters about children and services to children. This list because of its nature, is certainly not exhaustive, nor represents what might have been presented had the conferences been oriented towards platform development. Issues presented clearly and succinctly by Vermont Children, are included separately in the attached publication, called DEAR GOVERNOR SNELLING...Letters from Vermont Children about Parents and Kids.

1. Given the shrinking dollars for human service activities, and the extreme difficulty in ameliorating social problems once they possess a history, primary prevention is seen as a more effective and a less expensive approach for communities, agencies, and governments to follow.

2. Given the time spent in school by America's youth, humanistic approaches to education, including the statutory elimination of corporal punishment in the schools, and the development of creative approaches to discipline and learning be encouraged and promoted.

3. That adequate and appropriate day care be provided for children of working parents at affordable cost.

4. That non-institutional alternatives for children that are cost effective be instituted. These include provisions for handling delinquent and unmanageable children through one-to-one foster parent settings. The comparable cost in Vermont is $12,000 for one-to-one 24 hour care in a family setting as compared with $30,000 for institutional care. Institutional care has been shown to have little lasting effect on changing behavior.

5. That family strengthening activities be promoted as part of American community life. These would be activities in which parents and children act together, and where positive learning about family interaction, parenting skills, and other ways to have fun and work as a team could be demonstrated. These would also highlight the role and value that young people have in their communities.

6. That family group treatment be readily available for sex offenders and their families.

7. That specialized support and self-help groups be available for sexually abused adolescents and adults victim surviviors of child sexual abuse in the family.

8. That correctional institutions sponsor offender treatment programs for sex offenders so that these offenders are not the same or worse when they re-enter society.

9. That continued training and programming be available to professionals in intrafamily child sexual abuse treatment.

10. That the Federal emphasis and recent legislation which promotes permanency planning for children be continued to avoid foster care drift, and children falling through the cracks. This effort will help reduce both juvenile and adult crime.

11. That all forms of family violence, including wife battering, elderly abuse, child abuse and neglect, be looked upon as a single social problem with solutions that need legal and programmatic input to facilitate a lack of American tolerance for the continuation of all forms of family violence. This includes the desensitization to violence by its repeated appearance on television and in the movies.

W A S H I N G T O N

GOVERNOR JOHN SPELLMAN

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TITLE: "1981 Washington State White House Conference on Children and Youth"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Youth Employment - lack of employable skills, entry level jobs, job training, government regulations, coordination among agencies, communication, job preparation.

Recommendations: Yes - extensive

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 1981 Washington State White House Conference on Children and Youth was convened by Governor John Spellman against a backdrop of sobering economic news. A depressed State economy was shrinking the market for entry-level jobs, and the unemployment rate among Washington State youth was approaching disaster. In 1982, those trends will continue. In the months to come, 19.1 per cent of those aged 16-24 will be unemployed. For non-whites in that age bracket, a tragic 30.6 percent will be jobless.

But, despite severe budget cutbacks, the State's educational system can still provide training in some 300 trades and occupations through 6 public and 13 private colleges and universities, 27 community colleges, 5 vocational training institutes, and a variety of apprenticeship programs.

To help bridge the gap between the need for youth and the resources that can prepare Washington's youth for work, Governor Spellman saw an opportunity in the President's invitation to the nation's governors to hold the 1981 White House Conference on Children and Youth in each of the 50 States. Accepting the President's invitation, the Governor appointed a 14-member

steering committee representing labor, business, education, community groups, and youth. The committee selected 400 citizens to participate in the Conference, which was held December 11-12, at Central Washington University, Ellensburg.

Governor Spellman had insisted that the participants represent the broadest spectrum of backgrounds, disciplines, and points of view. He particularly encouraged students to attend, and more than 100 did. Their presence prompted lively exchanges, particularly when one faction accused the other conferees of "not listening" to the students' point of view. But representation for and by high-school or pre-school dropouts and blacks was poor to nonexistent; there were simply too few applicants.

The opening session of the Conference, led by Russ Bruch, Director, Life/Career Development, set the format and procedures for the two-day event. First, Mr. Bruch gave a one-hour presentation on how to prepare for the jobs of the future. Then the Conference participants were assigned to 40 groups of not more than 10 each. The assignments were random, save to ensure as far as possible that interest groups represented at the Conference were also represented in each discussion group.

In the course of the first afternoon, Conference leaders gave the discussion groups general questions on the present state of youth employment in order to stimulate discussion. That evening, four students from the Speech Communication Department of the University of Washington described and demonstrated how to analyze and define issues and how to develop and sharpen recommendations in an environment of small-group discussion. The discussions quickly became wide-ranging examinations of all the issues surrounding the central question of education and careers. They continued throughout the Conference in an open, friendly, yet concerned atmosphere of give-and-take. The watch-word was communication. The result was a serious and troubling critique of our school systems and of how inadquately they prepare the youth of today for the world of work.

Three themes emerged from these two days of constructive talk:

1. The conferees overwhelming agreed that most young people leave school - by graduating or by dropping out - ill-equipped to function with any degree of success in the world of work. Many lack elementary reading, writing, and arithmetical skills. Worse, they lack the basic life-adjustment skills that could enhance their personal fulfillment and future employability. In short, they have a seriously distorted view of the realities of the world of work - of how our economic system actually functions, and of what training is required of those who wish to survive and prosper in it.

2. The youth job market remains woefully insufficient, especially for entry-level jobs. Furthermore, governmental regulations often inhibit the ability of young people to take advantage of the opportunities that do exist.

3. While school and other programs offer job training, those individuals and institutions best able to address the problems of youth unemployment seldom coordinate their efforts. Those efforts are therefore often redundant. They lack direction, and are wasteful.

The collective recommendations of the conferees embodied these themes. They focused on the urgent and vital needs for:

1. Improved preparation, including comprehensive career-education programs for kindergarten through high school (K-12) students; mandatory competence tests at regular intervals for the basic 3-R skills; career resource centers; early assessment of skills; teaching basic life-adjustment and survival skills; and, providing various work-training experiences.

2. Expansion of employment opportunities by: on-the-job training; encouraging new industries; enhancing opportunities for youth employment through tax incentives and other means; and, examination and, when necessary, reform of those rules and regulations that discourage youth employment.

3. Assistance by local advisory groups, which must represent youth, schools, labor, business, and parents, in career counseling and in coordinating the application of existing resources.

It is startling to note that the White House Conferences on Children and Youth in 1960 and 1970 had come to remarkably similar conclusions regarding the inadequacy of basic-skills training, the lack of job opportunities for youth, and the absence of effective coordination among career-counseling services. In the broadest sense, the similarity of the conclusions of 1960, 1970, and 1981 means that not nearly enough has been done in the past twenty years. But the opportunities remain. It is hoped that, at least in Washington State, the Conference's general recommendations, themselves developed from specific discussions, will result in tangible changes that will narrow and bridge the widening gap between the world of youth and the world of work.

W E S T V I R G I N I A

GOVERNOR JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, IV

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Commission on Children and Youth
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TITLE: "West Virginia Conference on Children and Youth"

FORMAT: (24) Public meetings.

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Parenting education, Health and safety needs, Equal and appropriate opportunities/learning rights, Value development, Juvenile offenders, Child care, Nutritional education, School environment, Parents as adovcates, Child abuse and neglect, Substance abuse, AFDC.

Recommendations: Yes

Model Programs: No

Survey: Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I. INTRODUCTION

The West Virginia Commission on Children and Youth was created by Executive Order by Governor John D. Rockefeller IV in 1979. In his Executive Order, the Governor outlined four broad purposes for the Commission. They are:

1. Serve as an advocate of West Virginia's children and youth.
2. To research the continuing needs of children and youth; to assess current and proposed programs to meet these needs; and to present findings and recommendations to the Governor, to the legislature, and to the citizens of West Virginia.
3. To assist in developing cooperation among public and private agencies and organizations engaged in the delivery of services to children and youth in this State.

4. To serve as a liaison for West Virginia with State, national, or international conferences or committee on children and youth.

The Governor indicated his commitment to children and youth by creating the Commission which is composed of 24 citizen members representing broad socio-economic backgrounds, geographic locations, and personal and professional interests. The Commission was created in response to a recommendation by the Planning Committee of International Year of the Child which was concerned that many of the issues they identified would not be dealt with. We have been meeting since May, 1980.

As part of its charge, the Commission is to serve as a liaison for West Virginia with State, national, or international conference on children and youth. Therefore, when plans were being made for the White House Conference on Children and Youth, the Commission became the State planning body for that conference. We were in the process of defining our role and function in the State when the decision was made at the national level not to hold the National White House Conference. The Department of Health and Human Services did make money available to each of the States to be utilized for conducting activities locally. West Virginia received its share of the money and utilized it to conduct a series of public meetings around the State. Part II outlines the planning that was involved in preparing for these public meetings.

Part III of this report is a summary of the information received at the public meetings. This is not a formal research project, but does reflect those things we heard from citizens across West Virginia.

Since we were committed to report what people told us and not to make judgements based on what we heard, Part IV of this report includes a call for commitment on the part of the legislature and executive branches of State Government to address some of the issues raised by the citizens of this State. We also offer assistance to all branches of government in dealing with issues relating to children and youth. Finally, in Part IV, the Commission indicates that it will be fulfilling its advocacy role in the future based on the information we have gathered in the past year.

II. PLANNING PROCESS

The Commission, in an attempt to define issues they wished to addressed, received a report from the International Year of the Child committee and heard from various State agencies and private advocacy organizations regarding a broad range of concerns. Many members were interested in determining if the general population of the State were concerned about the same kinds of issues.

Because of this interest, the Commission decided to have a series of public meetings to allow citizens to bring concerns to their attention.

In order to provide some structure to the meeting process, the members spend two days reviewing problems and concerns relating to children and youth in West Virginia. They developed a list of over 50 issues they felt were important. Recognizing that they could not handle all of these issues effectively, they went through an evaluation and selection process. This allowed them to identify nine broad areas of concern to be addressed during the public meetings. Those nine broad issues are:

1. Equal and appropriate educational opportunities and learning rights
2. Health and safety needs
3. Child care
4. School environment
5. Nutrition education
6. Value development
7. Parenting education
8. Juvenile offenders
9. Parents as advocates

Subcommittees were appointed to refine issue statements, to develop a format for the public meetings, to develop publicity, and to develop a questionnaire to be completed by those persons attending the meetings.

At least two meetings were held in each of the 11 planning and development regions utilized by the Governor's Office of Economic and Community Development. The Commission requested the assistance of the regional offices in finding meeting locations and publicizing the meetings (see appendix). In addition to those 22 separate meetings, two sessions were held with Head Start staff and parents.

The format of the meetings was intended to provide citizens of the State an opportunity to tell the Commission what they saw as problems and concerns relating to children and youth in their particular area. Persons in attendance at the meetings were asked to indicate whether the nine identified issues were valid. However, discussion at the meetings was not limited to those nine issues. The meeting format was such that no consensus was required, but rather the Commission was more interested in creating an atmosphere of freedom of thought and expression.

In retrospect, the purpose of having a minimum of 24 public meetings was valid. We heard from citizens representing a broad range of socio-economic backgrounds, ages, and geographic locations. This representation might not have been possible had there been one central meeting in Charleston.

The questionnaire utilized was never intended to be a research instrument but it was only intended to allow individuals an opportunity to express their agreement or disagreement with the issues the Commission had identified. It also provided an opportunity to write comments if they were uncomfortable in speaking before the total group.

III. FINDINGS

The Commission heard from 375 citizens in its 24 meetings around the State. Only 260 completed questionnaries, and not all items were completed on those returned. We know for those who indited, that 17 of those persons were from single-parent families.

We know that 93 of those persons come from families where both parents work. This number only includes those families where there are children under the ages of 18 living in the home. We also know that 110 of those individuals make annual incomes of between $10,000 and $24,000; and 34 make an annual income of less than $10,000 (see appendix for tabulated responses).

We requested each of those 375 individuals to pick one issue or concern which they felt was most important in dealing with children and youth. We indicated that their issue did not have to be one of the nine identified by the Commission. This section of the report provides a summary of the responses after they were categorized by the Commission members. They will be presented in descending order from that issue most often mentioned to that issue least often mentioned (see appendix for individual meeting notes).

A. Parenting Education

The most often mentioned issue dealt with parenting education. The range of comments relating to parenting education went from persons who believed that there should be no outside influence on parents raising their children to suggestions that parenting education become a mandated part of school curriculum beginning in grade school. There was concern expressed about the increasing number of teenage parents and how well they were able to care for their children, not only physically, but also emotionally. There were suggestions that curriculum be mandated in junior and senior high schools to provide adolescents with some understanding of the responsibilities involved in raising children. There were also suggestions made regarding parents of adolescents and how to improve communication between child and parent.

B. Health and Safety Needs

The next most often mentioned issue was the broad realm of health and safety needs. Many of the comments under this category related to increased and more adequate mental

health services for children and youth, dental health, and the broad range of total health care for children. There was one suggestion made regarding child abuse and neglect cases -- that a separate court system be established for domestic problems. This would include child abuse and neglect, juvenile offenders and divorce proceedings.

C. Equal and Appropriate Educational Opportunities/Learning Rights

An overwhelming number of comments relating to the issue of equal and appropriate educational opportunities dealt with education for handicapped and developmentally disabled children. We heard from opponents and proponents of mainstreaming children, the need for alternative education programs, and the desire to eliminate inequities in the educational system from county to county and within counties. We heard discussion from parents who felt very aliented and isolated from the education process. They felt the educational systems in their counties were not interested in what parents had to say. We heard discussions, both pro and con, regarding consolidated schools. The positive concerned the increased curiculum opporunities. The complaints concerned travel time to and from school and the depersonalization of students in larger schools.

D. Value Development

The issue of value development was the fourth most often mentioned issue. Most perhaps expressed concern about an outside organization mandating values for the citizens. There were many comments concerning the decline of morals of students in our society, but most persons were unsure as how best to counteract this decline. Most suggestions dealt with the removal of governmental influence on families and an increase in emphasis on the important role the family plays in individual development. In the questionnaire responses, this particular issue got more checks indicating the Commission should not become involved.

E. Juvenile Offenders

Juvenile offenders was an issue that provoked some of the most heated and emotional discussions. Most of the comments we received about the juvenile justice system revolved around the lack of facilities and resources to implement the law as it is presently written. There was evidence of a great deal of frustration and anger in trying to make the present juvenile justice system work more efficiently and effectively and provide a level of consistency in the treatment of juveniles statewide. It is interesting to note that many people who were complaining about the juvenile justice system do not disagree with the philosophy of the

law -- treating juvenile offenders differently than adults. But, there is a great deal of hostility on how that law is being implemented on the local level, as well as the lack of financial support being provided on the State level.

F. Child Care

Child care was mentioned as a problem primarily by those persons who were concerned about the cuts in the day care program statewide. Many of the comments dealt with the necessity for good child care in an economy where increasing numbers of mothers are becoming employed outstide the home. Most of these comments were made in regard to the number of families where economic conditions mandated that both parents bring incomes into the family. Since these parents are working outside the home, they needed to have a consistent and positive child care program available. There was also some discussion regarding minimum care standards.

G. Nutritional Education

Nutrition was seen as a problem primarily in terms of infant mortality, nutrition for pregnant women, and the anticipated cuts in the school lunch programs. There were several parents who expressed a desire for more information for themselves so they could help their children. There were also discussions regarding how nutrition affects behavior. While it was mentioned in most of all the meetings, it was not seen as the most pressing issue by a substantial number of individuals.

H. School Environment

The issue of school environment was raised primarily in conjunction with the issue of equal and appropriate educational opportunities. Most comments in this category were directed toward the involvement of the community in the educational process and, primarily, the issue of teacher tenure and its influence on the educational system. There were several negative comments relating to teacher tenure and how to go about removing inadequate teachers from the classrooms.

I. Parents As Advocates

The issue of parents as advocates did not recieve many comments. This may primarily have been due to the way it was explained in the issue statement. Of course, it is also due to the fact that in most every other issue, there were comments relating to the need to involve parents in the decision making and to provide them with assistance in getting the services necessary for their own children. The

issue of helping parents be advocates for their own children is one that is inherent with all the other issues identified by the Commission.

There were several other issues that were discussed. Because of number of times they were mentioned, we feel they should be separated from the above nine issues. One was the specific problem dealing with child abuse and neglect. These two problems were discussed generally under health and safety needs. They were mentioned often enough to warrant mentioning in this report.

Additionally, there was a concerted effort on the part of the staff of the West Virginia Department of Welfare to bring the issue of the inadquate AFDC payment schedule to the attention of the Commission. While the Commission did not identify public assistance programs as being an issue they wished to to address, they recognized the influence that Aid to Families with Dependent Children has on low income children.

IV. CONCLUSION

As it is evidenced by the information in the preceding section, the Commission did hear a large number of concerns from citizens of the State. The Commission, in this report, is requesting a commitment from all branches of government and, ideally, by private sector agencies and volunteer groups to work toward the alleviation of many of the problems outlined in Part III. While not everyone will agree on the most important issue or how that issue should be addressed, we feel that the citizens we heard from were asking for help. If we neglect what has been referred to as our most valuable resource as we face a very uncertain economic future, we would be making an error of omission that could take years to overcome.

We believe that presently there is no need for additional agencies to be established to provide programs and services for children, nor do we have a desire to become involved in the operation of any programs or services. However, we very strongly feel there needs to be more joint planning, review, evaluation, and oversight of the many programs presently available for children and youth from both public and private agencies. The Commission is hereby offering its assistance to all branches of government and to the private social welfare sector to assist in planning and policy development for children's services.

While we have not, at this time, identified specific issues for which we will advocate, we will continue to be generally an advocate for children. This is not to say that we will not, in the future, identify specific problems areas we may wish to address.

The Commission stands ready to work for the betterment of children and youth in the State in whatever way it feels it can be most useful.

W I S C O N S I N

GOVERNOR LEE S. DREYFUS

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TITLE: "In Search of ...Permanency Planning - A Community Program

FORMAT: (1) Central conference, (20) workshops

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Legislation, Planning, Sexual Abuse, Divorce, Respite/ Emergency Care, Community Resources, Volunteers, Substance Abuse, Adoption.

Reommendations: No

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLANNING

On 7/27/81 the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Community Services applied for a grant of $37,705 for a Statewide conference on children and youth. This grant was to substitute for a national conference on children and families which had previously been planned for 1981. Funding for this request was provided through the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Human Development Services under P.L. 96-123. The grant was approved in August 1981 and the Department Bureau for Children, Youth and Families began the intitial planning.

In September, the Southeastern Regional Office of the Division of Community Services volunteered to accept lead responsibility for the planning of the conference. The Department's Children's Services Advisory Committee (See Appendix A for membership list) was designated as a citizens group.

At a 10/5 meeting between the Bureau for Children, Youth and Families, the Southeastern Regional conference planners, and the Division of Planning and Budget it was decided that the main theme of the conference would be attaining permanency for children. This theme was in concert with Wisconsin's ongoing commitment to Permanency Planning as exemplified in the Department's Mission Statement (Appendix B) and the 1980 and 1981 County Action Plans for the achievement of permanency planning. (Appendix C contains outline of 1981 plan.) This was also in harmony with the Federal intent as outlined in P.L. 96-272. This recommendation was taken to the Child Welfare Advisory Committee which met in October 1981. The recommendation was accepted and a subcommittee was formed to make specific program recommendations. This subcommittee recommended that the conference attempt to attract a large segment of the population interested in the delivery of child welfare services. It was strongly felt by this committee that only through increased coordination and cooperation of all interested parties would Wisconsin be able to maintain the quality of its children's services and enhance those services aimed at the prevention of family dissolution.

Due to time constraints, it was decided to hold the conference in January. After a thorough survey of available facilities, the conference was scheduled for Milwaukee at the Marc Plaza Hotel on January 13 and 14. (See Appendix D for site selection procedure.)

With site and date selection completed, the planning committee began to contact possible presentors who had been suggested by the Child Welfare Advisory Committee. The format decided upon was a two day conference - day one commencing with a major address on the current State and Federal status of child welfare services followed by a series of 10 workshops addressing a broad range of children's services issues. Day two would offer 10 new workshops followed by a luncheon and closing address. This format was submitted to and approved by the Child Welfare Advisory Committee on December 1 and 2, 1981.

THE CONFERENCE:

As scheduled, the conference was held on January 13 and 14. There were 245 registered participants from a wide variety of backgrounds (See Appendix c for agencies represented) including social service agencies, day care centers, private agencies, police departments and private clubs and organizations.

Participation was Statewide. The opening address was presented by John C. Calhoun, Director of the Center for Governmental Affairs of the Child Welfare League of America and Donald E. Percy, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services. Mr. Calhoun strongly urged the participants to continue their advocacy for children's services. Mr. Percy

reiterated the States commitment to the concept of permanency for children. The closing banquet included speeches by Lee Sherman Dreyfus, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, Burton A. Wagner, Administrator of the Division of Community Services and Robert Proksti, Project Director for the Permanency Planning Project for the Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Mr. Proksti's message stressed the need for volunteers and increased coordination with the judicial branch. (For more specific program description and copies of materials available, please see Appendix F). Evaluation was done by all workshop participants. (A summary is included Appendix G.)

Fiscal reconciliation will be completed within the normal 90 day Federal reporting period and submitted by April 29, 1982.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The "In Search of...Permanency for Children" conference had more than 245 participants from many different groups interested in the delivery of child welfare services in Wisconsin.

The conference clearly defined the States ongoing commitment to permanency planning for children and the necessity of coordinated planning to prevent the unnecessary dissolution of families and to assure children as much permanence and stability as possible. It is anticipated that the interchange facilitated by this conference will continue over the months to come and bring about greater cooperation and coordination in human service agencies particularly in the use of volunteers and joint programming between mental health and social service agencies.

W Y O M I N G

GOVERNOR ED HERSCHLER

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Wyoming Council for Children and Youth
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University of Wyoming
Laraime, Wyoming 82071
(307) 766-2245

TITLE: "Concerns of the '80's"

FORMAT: Cluster meetings, Discussion groups, Speak outs.

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Education, Juvenile justice, Legislation

Recommendations: Yes - extensive

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I. The Wyoming White House Conference on Children and Youth was called by Governor Ed Herschler to find ways and means to support and strengthen children and youth.

A. Conference Theme: "Concerns of the '80's:
Impact?
Energy?
People?

B. Major Issues:
1. Education
2. Juveniles

C. Objectives:
1. To assess the needs of Wyoming children and youth.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange of information, ideas, programs, and policies pertaining to children and youth.
3. To identify conditions that threaten the well-being of children and youth and to suggest policies to cope with such contingencies.
4. To formulate orderly and effective procedures for implementation and administration of available resources.

5. To identify, encourage, and solicit participation by all levels of government and the private sector toward implementation of solutions to problems and issues confronting children and youth.
6. To collect, report, and implement the findings and recommendations of the Wyoming Conference on Children and Youth.

II. State Planners

A. Everett D. Lantz -- State Coordinator
B. Wyoming Council for Children and Youth -- State Advisory Committee
C. County Coordinators

III. Only registered delegates were allowed to vote; however, others were welcomed to attend and address the conference.

IV. The Wyoming White House Conference on Children and Youth was held in Cheyenne, November 15, 16, and 17, 1981.

V. A total of 400 delegates to the State Conference in Cheyene, with half of the delegates youth (under 19 years of age.) All counties in the State were represented.

VI. Criteria

A. The primary focus of the Conference was children and youth, as opposed to families, aging, religion, etc. Issues were viewed as to their impact on children and youth as a whole.
B. Discussions focused on both needs and strengths and dealt with both general and specific issues.
C. Issues were selected which:
   1. Are of current concern and are expected to be vital to young people in the 1980's.
   2. Lend themselves to constructive action.

VII. FINDINGS OF THE DISCUSSION GROUPS

Session "A"

A. "Juvenile Courts and Justice"

1. Consistency is a must in screening juveniles.
2. Peer counseling could be effective deterrant to juvenile crime.
3. Parents and home life are at root of most juvenile offenses.
4. Each case must be handled differently.
5. Parental rights are protected too stringently.
6. Parenting skills are needed early in the training of children.

7. Need legislative funding for shelte homes.
8. Guidelines for informal probation are needed.
9. Voting age (18) and juvenile age (19) should be same.
10. Work restitution should be mandated by Wyoming statute.

B. "Children and Youth in Crisis"

1. Health and family living classes are essential and should include everything from sex education to the economics of raising children.
2. Adult education classes should be available for parents with information concerning pregnancy, contraceptives, rape, V.D., etc., available.
3. Parents should help children learn morality.
4. Sex education should not have moral implications.
5. Need legislative action on family violence and sexual abuse.
6. Human Sexuality, love, feelings, etc., should be taught at an early age.
7. State Department of Education must implement guidelines for family living classes and must give direction to local school districts for the implementation of such classes.

C. "Children and Youth from a Prosecutor's Point of View"

1. Existing laws need to be strictly enforced.
2. Social problems need to be addressed by family, church, and schools, not by the courts.
3. Need pre-adjudicated system for juveniles.
4. Need separate facilities for juveniles and adults.
5. Need shelter homes for youth.
6. Need help for families in crisis.
7. State funding for group homes.

D. "It's Good to be Me"

1. Educating people early in life about identity crisis would help them deal with these crises more effectively.
2. Separation of students by schools is a negative action because it does not teach that everyone has value.
3. There is great importance in belonging.
4. People should really believe that they are good.
5. Abusive people need help; problems brought out into the open would help people confront themselves.

E. "Financing Public Schools"

1. People need to be informed about the proposed constitutional change concerning equalization of funding in public schools.
2. The courts may get involved in the establishment of funding if the constitutional change passes.
3. The proposed change will take the responsiblity for school funding out of the local district's hands and will put it in the hands of the State and its general funds.

F. "Issues Confronting Activities in Public Schools"

1. The cost of activities is minimal compared to the benefits received from activities.
2. Activities improve self-esteem.
3. Activities give students incentive to achieve.
4. Local communities decide what sports are offered and which receive the most emphasis.

G. "Freedom to Learn"

1. Students should be able to make contributions to textbook selection.
2. Local communities should have broad-based groups to aid in textbook selection.
3. Teachers should explain to students about censorsnip and then give flexible assignments -- make sure that there is never just one book as an assigned choice.
4. Students should have knowledge of what brainwashing and propaganda are.
5. The individual has the right to obtain and read any materials he desires.

H. "Energy Resource Development: Implications for Community Educational Systems"

1. Wyomingites need to accept the growth and work together to make a good life for all.
2. Boom towns need schools, homes, civic services.
3. Industrial Siting Act needs to be strictly enforced.
4. Need personnel to handle new social service needs.

VIII. FINDINGS OF THE SPEAK OUTS

A. "Youth in the '80's"

1. Legislative Judiciary Committee should review the age at which a youth can be considered accountable for his actions and the age at which a youth may apply for Emancipation.
2. Legislature should fund at least one juvenile probation officer in each county.
3. Legislature should fund State-wide networks of crisis centers for victims of family violence, sexual assault, etc.

B. "Youth Speaks"

1. Much apathy among young people, as well as adults.
2. School staffs should be held accountable.
3. School system needs to provide opportunity for all.
4. People need to learn how to disagree without being disagreeable.

C. "Education for the '80's"

1. Centers for the care of pre-school children need to have proper environment and have laws governing them strictly enforced.
2. Age for compulsory education should be raised.
3. Problems-solving would be a beneficial addition to school curriculums.
4. Need places for children to go after school while parent(s) are at work.

D. "A Commitment to Children and Youth: How a Legislator Sees the Issues"

1. Legislature should make quality early childhood education available to all and should make strict laws to govern the operation of such schools.
2. Mail, phone, media should be used so that citizens can reach legislators.
3. Laws should be passed concerning adjudication and screening of juveniles.

IX. Presentors at the Conference

Dr. Everett D. Lantz - Welcome Address
Governor Ed Herschler - Keynote Address
Chief Justice Robert R. Rose, Jr. - "Youth in the '80's"
Dr. James Kern - "I Live With Kids"
Representative Matilda Hansen - "A Commitment to Children and Youth: How a Legislator Sees the Issues"
Dr. Charles Lindly - "Summary of Findings"

G U A M

CONTACT PERSON: Dr. Arthur A. Jackson, Director
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Governor of Guam
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GMF, Guam 96921

TITLE: "Governor's White House Conference on Children and Youth"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Education, Prevention, Substance Abuse, Juvenile Justice, Political Status, Youth Services, Community Organizations.

Reommendation: Yes

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A description of the conference process

Approximately 200 youth participants from the public and private junior and senior high schools, youth organizations, and military met at John F. Kennedy High School on Monday, December 21, 1981 to voice their concerns, needs, frustrations, and their recommendations on issues of significance to them.

Registration granted each participant the opportunity to choose the topic of most importance and interest to him/her. There were six topics selected for discussion during the conference. These six topics were Education, Prevention and Effects of Drug and Alcohol, Careers, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Political Status, and Youth Services and Community Organizations. The selection was based on the prevalence of the topics from previous surveys conducted on youth needs.

During the Opening Ceremony of the conference, members of the island community encouraged the youths to actively participate in the forum provided for them. The John F. Kennedy High School ROTC Color Guard presented the flags and music was provided by the Guam Youth Band.

The conference was divided into two sessions. The first, to allow panelists to make their presentations; and the second, to allow time for the participants to discuss issues and make recommendations for these issues. Panelists included representatives from the various government, business, military, and civic communities. Election of a youth spokesman for each topic also took place during these sessions.

The climax of the conference was the presentation of the recommendations to the entire conference body and in the presence of the Governor by the elected spokesman from each topic.

The Governor's address concluded the 1981 Guam White House Conference on Children and Youth.

Task Force Report

When the Department of Youth Affairs was given the responsibility of implementing the 1981 Guam Governor's White House Conference on Children and Youth in October, it was decided that a Task Force would be the most feasible way of coordinating such a large project in such a short period of time. The Department thus invited other youth-servicing departments and agencies and youth organizations to participate in this activity. Departments, agencies, and youth organizations who responded to this invitation were the Department of Public Safety, Department of Education, Catholic Social Services, 7th Guam Youth Congress and the United Youth Alliance, Districts 1-4.

The Task Force on the White House Conference on Children and Youth met twice weekly before the targeted date planning the conference. It was decided that the conference would be held on Saturday, December 12, 1981 from 8:00 a.m. - 4 p.m. at John F. Kennedy High School. Topics to be discussed at the conference were selected by their prevalence in previous youth and community surveys on youth needs. These topics were Education, Prevention and Effects of Drug and Alcohol, Careers, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Youth Services and Community Organizations, and Political Status. Members of the Task Force chaired committees on the coordination of these workshops.

All public and private junior and senior high schools, youth organizations, the University of Guam, youth-servicing departments and agencies, and the various branches of the Armed Forces were invited to participate in the conference. Participants invited were between the ages of 12 and 25. (Public Law 110 which establishes the Department of Youth Affairs defines youth as anyone under 25 years of age) Buses were scheduled to provide transportation to and from the conference site for the participants. Lunch was also to be provided.

On Saturday, December 12, 1981, the scheduled date for the Guam Governor's White House Conference on Children and Youth Tropical Storm Kit was expected to pass by Guam. Because of inclement weather conditions, the conference had to be postoponed until a later date.

The Task Force met for the last time on December 15, 1981 to discuss a rescheduled date for the conference. It was then decided that the conference be rescheduled for Monday, December 21, 1981. All other items concerning the conference remain as previously planned. The Guam Governor's White House Conference on Children and Youth was thus held on Monday, December 21, 1981.

P U E R T O R I C O

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TITLE: "State White House Conference"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference; (10) Regional conferences

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Communications, Employment, Parenting, Education, Disability, Recreation, Juvenile Justice, Mental Health.

Recommendations: Yes

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I. CONFERENCE DELIBERATIONS

The State White House Conference on Children and Youth was convened for two days in San Juan, Puerto Rico, following the regional conference in the ten (10) regions comprising the adminstrative organization of the Department of Social Services, These regional conferences were held during October and November. They served as a basis for the State Conference.

Representatives from the whole island totalled 250, 50 adults and 200 children and youth. The representatives were chosen by the groups attending the Regional Conferences, according to specific criteria, emphasizing the need to have a well-rounded group as to social, religous and economical status. Their ages ranged from nine to twenty-five years.

The discussion themes for the conference were as follows:

1. The impact of Television and Pornography on the Child and the Youth
2. Occupation and Alternatives of Employment
3. Preparation for Family Life
4. Sexual Education

5. Development of Values
6. The Handicapped Child and Youth
7. Recreation and Sports as Agents of Emotional Stability in the Child and the Youth
8. Juvenile Delinquency
9. Emotional Insecurity in Children and Youth

The participants enrolled in their preferred workshop to discuss the specific theme among themselves, with the assistance of one or two experts (program specialists and community leaders) in the subject matter. A recorder was appointed in each group. There was a general session where the reports of the group's deliberations were discussed.

It was a very rewarding experience since the members of the different groups discussed freely their themes, taking in consideration their working definition of the topic, what has been done in respect to its solutions and what is needed to improve it, considering the limitations of the agencies.

There was a full participation of the members of the groups, to the extent that some of them complained for not being able to take additional time for the discussions. They found their particular topics of great importance, relevant to their own communities.

The deliberations were profound, based in the experience and previous readings of the members of the groups.

The members of the Steering and Evaluation Committees visited the workshops so as to gain assurance that everything was in order and reported how gratified they were with the involvement of the participants in the discussions.

II. FINDINGS

Based on the participation of the members of the groups, we find out that both children and youth were able to ventilate their problems in an interest of getting more knowledge or assistance in their problematic areas.

It was clear that the young population of our Island is interested in discussing the different problems affecting their lives and are able to give suggestions for it's improvement.

Both children and youth are interested in promoting better ways of living in their commuities and to be useful to the governments (local, regional, State) in their interest of helping people to live better lives.

One of the most interesting workshops related to the preparation for family life. The members discussed their topic at great length but the time allotted was not enough for them to discuss wholly their concerns. The members of the workshop recommended the celebration of conferences by the agency to discuss areas such as: marriage, responsibilities of family life, etc.

It was noted that there is need to create sources of employment. The youths are eager to work, but employment is scarce in their own localities, especially in some municipalities in the Center of the Island, as Comerio, Barranquitas, Aguas Buenos, Cidra, etc. Unemployment paves the way for the ill of idleness. This promotes viciousness in the youth. The need to create opportunities of employment by the Governor and private enterprises for all capable individuals, so as to end or ameliorate the dependency pattern.

Sexual education was a very well attended workshop. It was evident that youngsters are eager to obtain information from trained personnel. They suggested that courses about this subject should be devoted at public and private school levels. Participants strongly emphasized the responsibility of the family and the school system in providing sexual information.

We noticed that our members defined the topic of the development of values very well. They feel that the value system permeates their own lives. Therefore, it is necessary to adhere to what society believes is the right thing to do, although at times, this needs change in accord with societal changes. More courses, at the elementary, high school and college levels are needed to get the proper knowledge about this topic.

The workshop related to emotional insecurity revealed that there is a high percentage of emotional insecurity among children and youth. They feel this is a by-product of poor family relations and community stresses. There is great tension in the neighborhoods products of insecurity: unemployment, drug addiction, alcholism, crime, abortions, etc. The community needs help and only well identified citizens can be helpful in the chaotic situation provoked by this state of affairs. It was suggested that the school, the Department of Social Services, Police and even the courts should hold meetings so as to give possible solutions to these areas.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the deliberations, the following recommendations were made:

1. To celebrate an annual conference with the children and youth so as to ventilate their problems and give the proper assistance or refer them to other agencies (private or public) for needed care, in accord to the identified needs.
2. To have an inter-agencies post conference(s) to discuss the findings of the State Conference and devise strategies to attend the needs as presented by the delegates of the Conference.
3. To incorporate in the Department's Annual Work Plan some of the recommendations that can be handled by this agency.
4. To create a consortium of agencies on an island-wide basis to work, in a systematic way, with the needs of our children and youth, taking as a frame of reference the deliberations of the different groups at the State Conference.
5. To produce illustrative and educational material, in conjunction with the school system, for possible distribution to the community and to be utilized for teaching in the school system.
6. Parents, caretakers and other individuals in the welfare of the children and youth should be involved in the discussion of their problems and promote a more rich and healthy family life.

V I R G I N I S L A N D S

CONTACT PERSON: Mr. Roland L. Benjamin
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TITLE: "First Biannual Virgin Islands Youth Conference"

FORMAT: (1) Central conference.

FINAL REPORT

Issues: Career Development, Economics, Education, Politics, Culture.

Recommendations: Yes

Model Programs: No

Survey: No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to Title III, Chapter I of the Virgin Islands Code, the First Binannual Young People's Conference was held at the Howard M. Wall Boy Scout Camp, Estate Sally's Fancy, St. Croix on December 11, 12, and 13, 1981.

Funding for this Conference was provided from a grant by the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the State Conference on Youth.

The history of young people's conferences in the Virgin Islands has been one of sporadic sessions being held by special interest groups with specific agendas, resolutions, and conclusions prescribed by the particular credos and methodologies of those groups.

The First Biannual Young People's Conference sought to create a forum wherein young people from all segments of Virgin Island society could come together, define their concerns, discuss and come up with ideas and methods to work towards the solution of problems facing young people without the restriants common to earlier conferences.

One hundred delegates representing the high schools of the Virgin Islands, the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, various religious denominations, the Rastafari Research Institute and others were

selected by their respective organizations to attend the conference organized by the Young People's Union and the Virgin Islands Commission on Youth.

Delegates began arriving at the Howard M. Wall Boy Scout Camp on Friday, December 11, 1981, from the three (3) islands. Delays in flights from the island of St. Thomas caused some disgruntlement among delegates; however, after mingling through the evening, delegates quickly settled down to the business of discussing major issues facing the youth of the Virgin Islands. Delegates were introduced to observers who served to orient them and to stimulate the discussions that were to follow. Observers were chosen by the Young People's Union and the Virgin Islands Commission on Youth with the hope of presenting delegates with "a cross-section of the socio-political views active in the community at the present time to elicit the input and possible solutions from the young people of the Virgin Islands." Though some delegates felt overwhelmed by views of some observers, they took those views under advisement and used them in the development of their own views on the major issues.

On Saturday, December 12, 1981, session began with an invocation delivered by delegate Sylvester Mike, wherein he called for guidance, peace, and an atmosphere of unity at the Conference and in the Virgin Islands.

Delegates were then formally welcomed by Mr. Roland L. Benjamin, Director of the Virgin Islands Commission on Youth who additionally introduced the Honorable Governor Juan Luis' representative, Mr. Jean A. Romney, Administrator of St. Croix.

Mr. Romney challenged the delegates to prepare themselves for the significant positions which will be essential to the further development of the Virgin Islands. He exhorted them to "stand up and be someone" in the future of the Virgin Islands.

The Honorable Ruby M. Rouss, President of the Fourteenth Virgin Islands Legislature, in her welcoming remarks relates the personal struggles she underwent to accomplish what she has, and pleaded with the delegates not to be misled by the seeming inadequacies of their political leaders. She insisted that young people must understand that because their elders may seem to do wrong, young people still have a "moral obligation to do right."

Dwayne Henry, a student at the College of the Virgin Islands, served as Moderator for the panel discussion which highlighted Saturday's morning session. Five panelists, selected for their contemporary involvement in the lives of young people, presented and defended their views in their areas of expertise. Mr. Rupert Ross, Principal of St. Croix High School and Chairperson of the Virgin Islands Constitutional Convention, addressed political issues of interest to young people. Mr. Gene K.

Emanuel, Assistant Professor of English at the College of the Virgin Islands, discussed education as a prerequisite for self-awareness and offered some alternatives for educational development of young people. Dr. Simon Jones-Hendrickson, Assistant Professor of Sociology at the College of the Virgin Islands, addressed the economic issues facing the Virgin Islands today. He challenged the youth to face economic reality and reject economic rhetoric. Mr. Mario C. Moorhead, Author and Political Activist, concentrated on cultural issues he considered significant to young people in the Virgin Islands. Ms. Jennifer Nugent-Porter, Executive Director of the Private Industry Council, advised delegates on the essentials of Career Development and various occupational opportunities.

Saturday's second session was reserved for workshops and discussions of pertinent issues. Delegates were divided into groups, each delegate having an opportunity to participate in discussions of at least two (2) of the areas outlined by the panelists. On the beach, on a hill under a gobi tree, sitting on a catamaran, delegates debated the pros and cons of political activism for young people; a literacy campaign conducted by themselves; the information of cooperatives to develop independent economic opportunities for the young and a myriad of other subjects. Each group selected a recorder and a spokesman who moderated the group discussion and who presented for further discussion, the views of the groups at the plenary session. At the end of the second session, delegates were entertained by Jamesie and the Happy Seven, a group that specializes in the folk music of the Virgin Islands.

The plenary session held on Sunday, December 13, 1981, was by far the liveliest forum for the development of consensus among the delegates. Discussion ranged from the merits of political involvement of the young people to auxilary careers in Agriculture. The moderators and recorders for each group and the body of delegates discussed, modified, and adopted the attached resolutions.

At the end of the plenary session, delegates were presented with a questionnaire by the Conference Reporting Committee aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of the Conference. The majority of delegates felt that the Conference was worthwhile, in that it brought young people together; however, given the short time they had and the multiplicity of views presented, the time was too short to adequately address the issues.

The delegates left the First Biannual Youth Conference determined to continue the discussion which began at the Conference and begin the implementation of those resolutions which called for immediate action.

A M E R I C A N S A M O A

GOVERNOR PETER TAIL COLEMAN

CONFERENCE COORDINATOR: Francis Leaseiolagi
Office of the Governor
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

CONFERENCE COORDINATOR:

Gerald S. Craddock
Office of Youth Programs
Headquaters, Trust Territory of The Pacific Islands
Saipan, C.M. 96950

APPENDIX B

Appendix B is a listing of model programs mentioned in the state reports. The programs are presented by state conference and subject area. Additional information may be available from the respective state contact person.

States not listed did not highlight model programs in their reports. However, you may wish to request information from these states in the event that model programs have been developed but were not reported in their conferences.

MODEL PROGRAMS

CALIFORNIA: "California Conference on Youth Employment"

Education
- Security Pacific Bank
- Regional Occoupational Program/Work Experience
- Vail High School, Vail

High Technology
- Hughes Aircraft
- Hewlett-Packard Corp.
- MESA/The Mathematics English Science Achievement Program
- Northrop Corp. (HIP)

Linkages
- Industry Education Council of California

Networking
- Ventura County Youth Employment Services

Subsidized Employment
- CWETA/California Worksite Education and Training Act
- Sweetwater Union High School District
- California Seasonal Hire Program

Arts, Tourism & Recreation
- Cultural Awareness Tours
- Community Arts Festivals

Disability
- San Gabriel Valley Training Center

Inner City Youth
- Asian Neighborhood Design, San Francisco
- Youth Employment Service, San Jose
- Skills Improvement Program, San Diego

Migrant & Rural Youth
- Center for Employment Training, San Jose
- California Human Development, Windsor
- Proteus Adult Training Program, Visalia

GEORGIA: "1981 Georgia Conference on Children and Youth"

Infants
- Infant Education Program

Vocational Education & Training
- "New Company" Programs
- Quick Start Program, State Dept. of Education

MINNESOTA: "Stress and Work - Addressing the Needs of Children, Youth and Parents - Models for Self Reliance"

- Alexandra House, Fridley
- Befrienders, St. Paul
- Birthright of Minnesota, St. Cloud
- Born Free, Minneapolis
- Boy Scouts of America, Minneapolis, St. Paul
- Camp Du Nord-YMCA Family Camp, St. Paul
- Camp Wilder of the Amherst A. Wilder Foundation, Marine on St. Croix
- Carver County Task Force on Work/Families, Waconia
- Chart, Minneapolis
- Chicanos/Latinos Unidos En Servicio (CLUES), St. Paul
- Child Care Information Network, Minneapolis
- Child Care Resource and Referral, Inc., Rochester
- Children are People, Inc., St. Paul
- Children in Change, Minneapolis
- Children's Corner Family Workshop, Waseca
- Chrysalis Outpatient Treatment Program for Women and Children, Minneapolis
- The City/Southside, Inc
- College of St. Catherine Montessori Laboratory School, St. Paul
- Consumer Action Service-St. Paul Public Schools, St. Paul
- Contact Plus-YWCA of Minneapolis Area, Minneapolis
- Couple Communcation Training, Minneapolis
- Detached Work-Youth Outreach Program, New Hope
- Drop-in Support Group, Minneapolis
- Early Childhood and Family Education and Adult Homemaking, St. Paul
- Early Childhood & Family Education Programs, St. Paul
- Edina Kids' Club-School-Age Child Care, Edina Engaged Conference, St. Paul
- Extension Farm and Home Financial Program for Young Rural Families, Mora
- Extension Programming for Entire Family Involvement, Farmington
- Family Economics Program-Family Service of St. Paul, St. Paul
- Family SAR (Sexuality Workshop for Families), Minneapolis and New Brighton
- Family Support Services (FSS), Minneapolis
- Family Treatment for Physical Abuse, Minneapolis

- Family Weekend Retreats for Families with Physically Disabled Children, Minneapolis
- Families of Gays and Lesbians (FOGL), Minneapolis
- 4-H Family Project
- Friendship Group Program-Plymouth Youth Center, Minneapolis
- Grief Center, Burnsville
- Helping Families Prevent Chemical Misuse in their Children, Johnson Institute, Minneapolis
- Hennepin County Job Sharing Program, Minneapolis
- Home Heath Modules, St. Paul
- Honeywell's Working Parents Task Force, Minneapolis
- The Hospice Program at Abbott Northwestern, Minneapolis
- Human Ecology, Minneapolis
- Illusion Theatre-Applied Theatre Program (Sexual Abuse Prevention), Minneapolis
- Indo-Chinese Unaccompanied Minor Program, Minneapolis
- The Intensive In-Home Family Treatment Program, Austin
- The Meeting Ground, Golden Valley
- Meld-Minnesota Early Learning Design, Minneapolis
- Messiah Willard Day Care Center, Minneapolis
- Mid-Point: Minnesota Vietnam Veteran Family Project, Burnsvilles
- Model for Training Individuals in Families to Deal With,Change, Willmar
- Minnesota Vocational Parent and Family Education Network,,St. Paul
- National Marriage Encounter, St. Paul
- Natural Family Planning-Diocese of Winona, Rochester
- Northland Children's Oncology Services, Inc.-Northland, House, Rochester
- Northwestern National Bank of Minneapolis, Minneapolis
- Notch Workcare, Inc.
- Parent-Child Training Center, Crystal
- Parenting Education in the Mdewakanton Sioux Community,,Prior Lake
- Parent's Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights (Pacer Center), Minneapolis
- Parents Anonymous, Hennepin County
- Parents in the Workplace: A Management Resource for Employers, St. Paul
- Parents Without Partners, Inc., Minneapolis
- Peer Counseling, St. Paul
- Perspective on Divorce, St. Paul
- Police Employee Assistance and Stress Program, St. Paul
- Postpartum Home Visits: PHN Assesses Family Wellness,,Anoka County
- Pre-Adjudication, Police Diversion Program, Crystal

- Prepare-Enrich, Minneapolis
- Process Consultation on Personal Finances, Eden Prairie
- Project Charlie, Edina
- Ramsey County Family Shelter
- Resettlement on Soviet Jewish Immigrants, Minneapolis
- Reverence for Life and Family, St. Paul
- Ronald McDonald House, Minneapolis, St. Paul Roots and Wings
- Rural Family Development, Staples
- St. Cloud Avti Parent-Child Programs-Seton Hall, St. Cloud
- St. Joseph's Home for Children, Minneapolis
- The Salvation Army Corps-Community Center, Minneapolis
- Saving Lives, Minneapolis
- School-Based Family Life Education: Interpersonal Relations, and Loss and How to Survive it, Eden Prarie
- Self Esteem: A Family Affair, Plymouth
- Seminars for Parents on Adolescent Sexuality, Roseville
- Sheriffs' Youth Programs of Minnesota, Austin
- South Minneapolis Community Federal Credit Union, Minneapolis
- Southeast Cooperative Nursery School, Minneapolis
- Southside Family Nurturing Center, Minneapolis
- Stepparent/Stepfamilies, St. Paul
- Storefront/Youth Action
- Strenthening Potential Families, St. Paul
- Student Parents Program, St. Paul
- Support Groups for Couples/Spouses with a Chronically Ill Partner, Minneapolis
- Support Services Through Public Health Nursing for Families with Illness, St. Paul
- Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP), Circle Times
- Teams of Our Lady, Rochester
- Teenage Health Cosultant Program (TAHC), Fergus Falls
- Therapeutic Child Development Program (TCD), St. Paul
- Toys 'N Things Training and Resource Center, St. Paul
- Understanding Us, Minneapolis
- Vocational Education Industry Task Force, St. Paul
- Washburn Child Guidance Center-Washburn Wonders, Minneapolis
- "We Can" Weekend, Minneapolis
- We Care, St. Paul

- o YMCA Camping, Minnetonka
- o Youth Employment and Training Programs, Zumbrota
- o Youth Forum Minnesota, Edina
- o Self-Reliance"

MISSOURI: "Missouri's Children are Tomorrows Hope"

Child Welfare
- o Child Advocacy Council of Southwestern Missouri
- o Children Place Day Treatment Center, Kansas City
- o Court Appointed Special Advocate Program, St. Louis
- o Barry County Community Council

NEW HAMPSHIRE: "The Changing Picture in Children and Youths Services: A Look Beyond the Block Grants"

Health
- o Preschool Child Find Project
- o Vermont Project
- o Maternal Infant Early Discharge Program, Concord Hospital

Child Abuse
- o Manchester Sexual Abuse and Incest Project, Manchester

Prenatal Services
- o Comprehensive Children and Youth Project

NEW YORK: "Youth Leadership-Involvement for the Future" (the New York report cites programs that are nationwide)

Teaching and Counseling Projects
- o Peer Helping Program, Randallstown Senior High School (Maryland)
- o Discovery Peer Programs, Wake County Schools (North Carolina)
- o The Divorced Kids Group, Lexington High School (Massachusetts)
- o Language to Share-A Bilingual Peer Tutoring Program, Lowell Schools (Massachusetts)
- o Tutoring with Learning and Behavorial Problem Children, Martin Luther King Community School (New York)
- o Youth as Day Care Helpers, Bulkeley High School (Connecticut)

Community Service and Improvement Projects
- o Community Service and Career Exploration, Shoreham-Wading River Middle School (New York)

- Youth Community Action Program, Five Towns Community Center, Inc. (New York)
- Looking Glass Community Improvement Project, Looking Glass Youth & Family Services, Inc. (Oregon)
- Youth Action Program, East Harlem Block Schools (New York)

Community and Community Education Projects

- Student Service Center, Bureau of Student Services (Massachusetts)
- Young Adult Library Advisory Committee, Spokane Public Library (Washington)
- New Youth Connections-A Youth-Run Newspaper, Youth Communication/New York Center (New York)
- Junior Museum Curators, Siouxland Heritage Museums (South Dakota)
- A Community Heritage Videotape Project, Cornell University, Field Study Office (New York)

Health and Physical Fitness Projects

- Teen Provide Information, South Bay Free Clinic (California)
- Youth As Community Educators, Salem Youth Commission (Massachusetts)
- Cooperative Science Education Project, New York University Medical Center and Joan of Arc Junior High School (New York)
- Youth Teach Exercise Skills in Senior Citizens, Sports for the People (New York)
- STRIVE, Girls Club of New York (New York)

Employment and Entrepreneurship Projects

- A Youth-Staffed Employment Program, Jane Addams Center Youth Department (Illinois)
- Goodies- A Youth-Run Store, Chinese Youth Essential Services (Massachusetts)
- Youth Entrepreneurship Project, Graduate School for Urban Resources and Social Policy (California)

Energy and Environmental Projects

- Community Conservation and Improvement Project, Community Youth Center (Connecticut)
- Energy Conservation Through Student Action, Sheehan High School (Connecticut)
- Energy Awareness Puppet Show, Energy Extension Service (Connecticut)

Youth Organizing and Public Affairs Projects

- Youth Build Participation, Youth Network Council of Chicago (Illinois)
- Duluth Youth Jury, County Courthouse (Minnesota)
- Los Angeles City Youth Advisory Council, Mayor's

Office of Youth Development (California)
- Student Involvement Project, Open/Road/Citizens Policy Center (California)

NORTH CAROLINA: "A Public and Private Sector Forum"

Family Economics and Stability
- Three Tier Educational Program, Duplin Co.
- Electoronic Vocational High School, Wake Co.
- Textile Training Program, Rutherford Co.
- Work Incentive Program

Family Disintegration
- Wake Up for Children
- Partners of Wake County, Wake Co.
- Junior League, Fayetteville
- Beverly Hills Baptist Church, Ashville
- Industrial Counseling Center, Greensboro

Day Care
- Durham Day Care Council, Durham
- Council for Children, Mecklenburg Co.
- PCA, International, Inc. Child Development Center
- Integon, Corp., Winston-Salem
- Chambers of Commerce, Stanley Co. & Catawba Co.

Health
- General Baptist State Convention
- March of Dimes
- Burlington Jr. Women's Club, Burlington
- Carolina Motor Club (AAA)
- Independent Ins. Agents of North Carolina
- North Carolina United Way

Education
- Providence United Methodist Church, Charlotte
- Burlington Industries, Reading Enrichment Program, Burlington
- Homework Hotline, Forsyth Co.
- Hardees Restaurant, Vance Co.
- Three Tier Vocational Education Program, Duplin Co.
- Project Hope, Wake Co.

OHIO: "The Spirit of Volunteerism"

Juvenile Delinquency
- St. Stevens Community House, Columbus Substance Abuse
- Project CARE (Chemical Abuse Reduction by Education). Cleveland Volunteers

- o Berea High School Student Volunteer Program, Berea Employment
- o INROADS/Cleveland Inc., Cleveland Child Abuse
- o Parents Anonymous of Ohio, Cleveland Disablity
- o Early Childhood Programs for the Handicapped Toledo Public Schools, Toledo
- o The Nisonger Center, Ohio State University, Columbus Infants
- o Infant Stimulation/Mother Training Program University of Cincinnati Medical School, Cincinnati Counseling
- o Indian Hills High School Peer Counseling Program, Cincinnati

SOUTH CAROLINA: "South Carolina Conference on Children and Youth"

Mental Retardation
- o Project Optimal: A Home Based Approach to Early Identification, Clinton

Substance Abuse
- o S.C. School Intervention Program, Columbia

Child Abuse
- o Community Based Model to Treat Intrafamily Sexual Abuse, S.C. Dept. of Mental Health

Education
- o Cooperative Vocational Rehabiliation - Public School Program Columbia

TENNESSEE: "Tennessee Volunteers for Children Project Conference:

Education
- o Memphis Adopt-A-School Memphis
- o Parent Place, Knoxville
- o Serendipity Through Synergism, Knoxville

Child Abuse
- o Scan of Tennessee, Inc., Jackson Disability
- o Outfit Project, Nashville
- o Arc of Davidson County Respite Project, Nashville
- o Early Learning Program, Greenville
- o Les Passes, Inc., Memphis

Child Care
- o Commerce Union Bank Child Care Subsidy Program, Nashville

Leisure Time

- Parents/Teens Community Standard Project, Memphis
- Buddies of Nashville, Nashville

Juvenile Justice

- Channel One Project, Johnson City
- Youth Diversion Project, Nashville

Infants

- Tri-County Maternal and Infant Care Project, Nashville

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